

The Second Sunday in Lent

Year B

February 25, 2024



CHRIST CHURCH
EPISCOPAL

THE MOTHER CHURCH OF GEORGIA
ESTABLISHED 1733





CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL
SAVANNAH

THE MOTHER CHURCH OF GEORGIA
ESTABLISHED 1733

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Entrance Rite

Prelude <i>Soliloquy</i>	David Conte (b. 1950)
Processional	Hymnal 401
<i>The God of Abraham praise</i>	<i>Leoni</i>
Children's Chapel, please follow the procession. Suggested ages PreK to Fifth grade, younger children welcome if accompanied by adults.	
Penitential Order	BCP 351
<i>Celebrant</i>	Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
<i>People</i>	His mercy endures for ever.
Summary of the Law	
Confession and Absolution (<i>Kneeling</i>)	BCP 352
Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.	

Kyrie eleison (*Kneeling*)
from *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*
Lord, have mercy upon us (3x)
Christ, have mercy upon us (3x)
Lord, have mercy upon us (3x)

Hymnal S-91
Healey Willan (1880–1968)

Collect of the Day (*Kneeling*)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Word of God

First Lesson

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I



will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations,

for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but

Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Abraham, Sarah, and the Angel, Jan Provoost. 1520s. Louvre Museum, France.

Psalms 22:22–30 *Deus, Deus meus* BCP 610

Sung by the choir.

chant: Plainsong, Tone IV

- 22 Praise the LORD, you that fear him; *
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.
- 23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither does he hide his face from them; *
but when they cry to him he hears them.
- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; *
he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

Epistle Romans 4:13–25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the pres-



ence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Abraham Heard the Promises of the Lord, Luca Giordano. 1695-1696. Museo del Prado, Madrid, Spain.

Sequence Hymn

Take up your cross, the Savior said

Hymnal 675

Bourbon

Holy Gospel

Mark 8:31–38

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

The Second Sunday in Lent

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Sermon	The Rev. Canon Loren Lasch, <i>Canon to the Ordinary, Episcopal Diocese of Georgia</i>
Nicene Creed	BCP 358
Prayers of the People, Form I	BCP 383
The Peace	

The Holy Communion

Offertory	<i>Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks</i> Herbert Howells (1892–1983)
<p>Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O God. My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God. When shall I come to appear before the presence of God? My tears have been my meat day and night while they daily say unto me where, where is now thy God? <i>(Psalm 42:1–4)</i></p>	
Doxology	Hymnal 380, v. 3
The Great Thanksgiving, <i>Eucharistic Prayer A</i>	BCP 361
Sanctus and Benedictus	Hymnal S-114
from <i>Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena</i>	H. Willan
Lord's Prayer	BCP 364
The Breaking of the Bread	
Fraction Anthem, <i>Agnus Dei</i>	Hymnal S-158
from <i>Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena</i>	H. Willan
All Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion.	
Holy Communion	Hymnal 653, 691
<i>Dear Lord and Father of mankind</i>	<i>Repton</i>
<i>My faith looks up to thee</i>	<i>Olivet</i>

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 365

Processional

Hymnal 495

Hail, thou once-despised Jesus!

In Babilone

Postlude *Praeludium in E minor*

Nicolaus Bruhns (1637–1718)



Prayers of the People*

For the people of Ukraine, Israel and Gaza and places of conflict around the world: for strength, hope, perseverance, and protection; for liberation from violence and oppression; for the end of war and the laying down of weapons.

Also for Beatrice Douglas, Ted, Mike and family

For the Birthdays of Will Young, Rod Davis, Morgan Kuhn, Virginia Maxwell, Julia Mikell, Bill Wallace, Kev Jackson, Hanks Young, Pamela Benton, Alice Edwards, Holley Helfrich, Polly Webster, John Skeadas III, Jerry Reeves IV, Sandy Yarger, John Rilee, Daniela Bringman, Brooke Stone, Finn Taylor, Bob Vouk, Carol Jennings, Lynn Harrison, Rosemary Mackey, Monica Sliva, Jeff Whitlow, Clare Ellis, Vera Zajac, Kate Bailey, Jamie Lindley, Kim Lutz, Florence Slatinsky, Russell Smith, David Crampton, Kristen Stovall, Mercy Wright, Joey Stolba, Susan Huennekens, Serenity Lewis

For the Wedding Anniversaries of Casey and Ronald Martinez, Stephen and Clayton Gagne-Thomas

For Those Who Have Died and for the Comfort of Their Families: James F. McClelland, Anne West

*The full prayer list may be found on our website and in our weekly email.

Announcements

Altar Greens

The greens on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Malcolm and Frances Maclean by their children John and Nancy.

Christ Church Historic Silver

From the first Sunday of Lent through Easter Sunday, we will use our historic silver chalices and paten at the 10:30 service. The engraving on these vessels states: "Presented to Christ Church by the Ladies of the Congregation 1816." The chalices are very plain but very deep. If you drink from the chalice, please assist the server, who will not be able to see if you have actually received the wine. Some people may find it easier to stand to drink from the chalice. Parents may want to help children who receive wine. For over 200 years, worshipers at Christ Church have received bread and wine from these vessels. We follow in a long line of those who came before us. We give thanks for the love of God that continues from generation to generation.

This Week at Christ Church

Sunday, February 25 - The Second Sunday in Lent

9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

9:30 a.m. Adult Forum & Children's Sunday School (Parish House)

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

6:00 p.m. *Embracing the Dark*, followed by Choral Compline

Monday through Friday, February 26–March 1

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Docent Tours

Monday, February 26

5:30 p.m. In the Spirit, This week's topic is "*Conflict and the Gap Between Us' and 'Them.'*"

Wednesday, February 28

12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Prayers for Healing

12:30 p.m. Mid-day Music. *If Music Be the Food of Love*

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Next Sunday at Christ Church

Sunday, March 3 - The Third Sunday in Lent

9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

9:30 a.m. Adult Forum & Children's Sunday School (Parish House)

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

6:00 p.m. *Embracing the Dark*, followed by Choral Compline

Altar Arrangement Donations

If you would like to donate the altar arrangement in thanksgiving, in celebration, or in memory of a loved one, please contact [Catherine Gussler](#), 912-222-0888. The suggested donation is \$100. Throughout the season of Lent, the altar will be arranged with greens. Following Lent, flowers will be used.

Mid-day Music: *If Music Be the Food of Love*

Wednesday, February 28, 12:30 p.m.

Join us for *If Music Be the Food of Love* following the noon service on Wednesday, February 28. Dr. Justin Addington, Minister of Music at First Baptist Church on Chippewa Square, will play a program of organ music based on Lenten hymns.

Listening for God's Call: The Spiritual Practice of Discernment

Sunday Adult Forum, 2nd Floor of the Parish House, 9:30 a.m.

Nursery provided for ages 0-4

Sunday, March 3, "Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord" led by Dr. Bertice Berry

One of the responsibilities of deacons is to remind Church members that in serving those in need, we are serving Christ. There are many among us doing this service in their jobs and communities. On Sunday, March 3rd, Bertice Berry will host a panel of CCE members to discuss the way they each discerned a unique ministry of service. Afterwards, we will engage in an exercise to help us discern our own way to *Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord*.

St. Peter's Savannah to Screen *The Philadelphia Eleven*

Thursday, February 29, 5:45 p.m.

St. Peter's (3 West Ridge Road, Savannah, GA 31411) is hosting a screening of the documentary *The Philadelphia Eleven*— an exploration of the ordination of the first female Episcopal priests. The event is open and free to the public, with the opportunity to give a donation. Seating will be first come, first serve, and snacks will be provided.

The diocese had a screening of the documentary at convention in November 2023, and it was a moving and educational experience for many in attendance.

LENT AT CHRIST CHURCH

Listening for God's Call: The Spiritual Practice of Discernment

Sunday Adult Forum, 2nd Floor of the Parish House, 9:30 a.m.

Nursery provided for ages 0-4

The spiritual work of discernment is ongoing and part of the Christian experience, no matter your age or stage. We discern our studies, professions, relationships, parenting, financial decisions, retirement and a million decisions in-between. The Church offers many tools and great wisdom on discerning vocation—the call of God—in ways big and small. However, these gifts have primarily been used by those seeking ordination. In this series, we will explore some of the ways you may discern the decisions of your life in the context of Christian Faith.

Let's Build Some Bible Stories

Children's Sunday School, 2nd Floor Parish House, 9:30 a.m.

Nursery provided for ages 0-4

Children and youth are invited to roll up their sleeves and get to work. We are going to create immersive art focused on five great Bible stories

***Embracing the Dark* followed by Choral Compline**

Sunday Evenings in the Nave, 6:00 p.m.

What happens if we abandon our preconceptions of Lent as primarily a season of doom and gloom and instead seek to find inspiration and even illumination in darkness? Join Christ Church member and professor of art history Gary Radke for a four-part Lenten series on the positive power of darkness in Renaissance art. Discuss how all of us might meaningfully embrace darkness, shadows, and obscurity. Consider “Renaissance Depictions of Night” (February 25); “Darkness and Drama in Caravaggio’s Art” (March 3); and “Problems with Light” (March 10). Sessions will be held in the church nave from 6–7 p.m., beginning with a Powerpoint presentation and discussion followed by Choral Compline sung by the staff singers. You are welcome to attend one, several, or all four gatherings.

In the Spirit: Lenten Discussion Series

Mondays, February 26, March 11, & March 26 at the Sandfly 5-Spot, 5:30 p.m.

“In the Spirit” is a discussion group for those who seek to deepen their faith through meaningful conversations. Join us this Lent as we explore questions surrounding change, conflict, and Christ’s mandate to love.

Mid-Day Music

Wednesdays following the noon Eucharist in the church. Contemplative organ music will be offered by area organists each Wednesday in Lent. These programs are free and open to the public, with a free-will offering to benefit Emmaus House’s homeless meals ministry.

Christ Church Book Group

Thursday, March 14 in the Undercroft, 10:30 a.m.

When Bad Things Happen to Good People by Rabbi Harold Kushner.

Often imitated but never superseded, *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* is a classic that offers clear thinking and consolation in times of sorrow.

Lenten Book Study

Wednesday, March 20 in the Undercroft, 6:00 p.m.

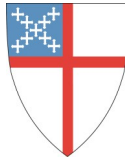
Learning to Walk in the Dark by Barbara Brown Taylor

This book was chosen in tandem with the Sunday evening program, *Embracing the Dark*. In *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, Episcopal priest and New York Times best-selling author, Barbara Brown Taylor, steps away from our “solar spirituality.” She explores the uncomfortable experience of darkness, physically and spiritually, and encourages us to seek God’s presence there, also.

Music & Meditation for Passiontide

Palm Sunday, March 24, 4:00 p.m.

Begin your journey through Holy Week with this contemplative program featuring Marcel Dupré’s *Passion Symphony*. This exquisite work for solo organ will be paired with readings and meditations by the Rev. Canon Todd Smelser.



CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL

The Right Reverend Frank S. Logue, *Bishop of Georgia*

The Reverend Michael S. White, *Rector*

The Reverend Samantha K. McKean, *Senior Associate Rector*

The Reverend Helen S. White, *Associate Rector*

The Reverend Patricia Rhoads Davis, *Deacon*

George H. Fergus, *Director of Music*

Suzanne Phillips Smith, *Parish Administrator*

Charles L. Epps, *Sexton*

The Reverend Canon Todd D. Smelser, *Priest Associate*

The Reverend Liam G. Collins, *Priest Associate*

The Reverend Richard "Max" Maxwell, *Priest Associate*

The Reverend David C. Seyle, *United Methodist Pastor-in-Residence*

Vestry

Stephen R. Rilee, *Senior Warden*; Washington C. Dender, *Junior Warden*;

Sarah B. Smith, *Clerk of the Vestry*; Patton W. Dugas, *Treasurer*;

Catherine M. Gussler, *Assistant Treasurer for Stewardship and Finance*;

Lindsey A. Eberle; Katherine J. Griffith; Stephanie C. Lindley;

Rosemary W. Mackey; Elizabeth L. Macfadyen; Roger Moss, Jr.;

Rena K. Patton; Paul D. Reddick; Paul H. Threlkeld;

Polly C. Webster; Susan H. Wetmore

Sundays

9:15 a.m. Nursery, located on the 2nd floor of the Parish House at 18 Abercorn

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

The Church building is located at 28 Bull Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401

The telephone number is 912-236-2500

www.christchurchsavannah.org

Christ Church, the "Mother Church of Georgia," was founded on February 12, 1733 and is a member of the Diocese of Georgia which, in turn, is one of 110 Dioceses which composes The Episcopal Church in the United States of America and abroad. The Episcopal Church is a constituent member of the Anglican Communion, a fellowship within the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of those duly constituted dioceses, provinces, and regional Churches in communion with the See of Canterbury. The fellowship upholds and propagates the historic Faith and Order as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer. The current church building was constructed in 1838 and is the third one on the original site.