



Welcome to
St. Marks's Episcopal Church

All are welcome, all are honored, all are embraced, all are loved.

The Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024

10:00 a.m.

*A house of prayer for all people in the historic Radcliffeboro neighborhood of
Charleston, South Carolina*

The Rt. Rev. Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina
The Very Reverend Dr. Michael Shaffer, Interim Rector
Loretta Haskell, Organist & Choirmaster



*The 1982 Hymnal, referred to as **Hymnal** and Lift Every Voice and Sing II, referred to as **LEVAS** are found in your pew. **WLP** designates the music comes from the publication *Wonder, Love and Praise*. If **BCP** appears, that is a reference to the red Book of Common Prayer, also found in your pew.*

Opening Proclamation

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

CHORAL INTROIT

God Beyond Knowledge

Slane

OPENING HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise

Hymnal 401

THE HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE ONE

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

People: His mercy endureth for ever.

Celebrant: Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Celebrant: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Celebrant: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Almighty and most merciful father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess their faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

Celebrant: The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Christ, have mercy on us.

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy on us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant: 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.*

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 17:1-7,15-16

(Reader: A reading from the Book of Genesis)

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.”

(Reader: *Here ends the reading.*)

PSALM 22:22-30

- 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.

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Romans 4:13-25

(Reader: *A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans*)

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 presence 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.

(Reader: *Here ends the reading.*)

SEQUENCE HYMN

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

LEVAS 88

THE GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

All: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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.”

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.”

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

TRANSITION SONG

In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful

Song by Taizé

In the Lord I’ll be every thankful.

In the Lord I will rejoice.

Look to God, do not be afraid,

Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

THE SERMON

The Very Rev. Dr. Michael Shaffer

THE NICENE CREED

*We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.*

*For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.*

*On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

*He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.*

*We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Ruth, our Bishop, and Michael our priest, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Joe, our President, Henry, our Governor and William, our mayor, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. We invite your personal intercessions at this time, either aloud or in your heart. (Pause, followed by Intercessor Prayers)

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of our Patron St. Mark and all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

Celebrant: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Who dost bid thy faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by thy Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which thou hast prepared for those who love thee.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Celebrant and People

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.*

Celebrant: All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant sing.

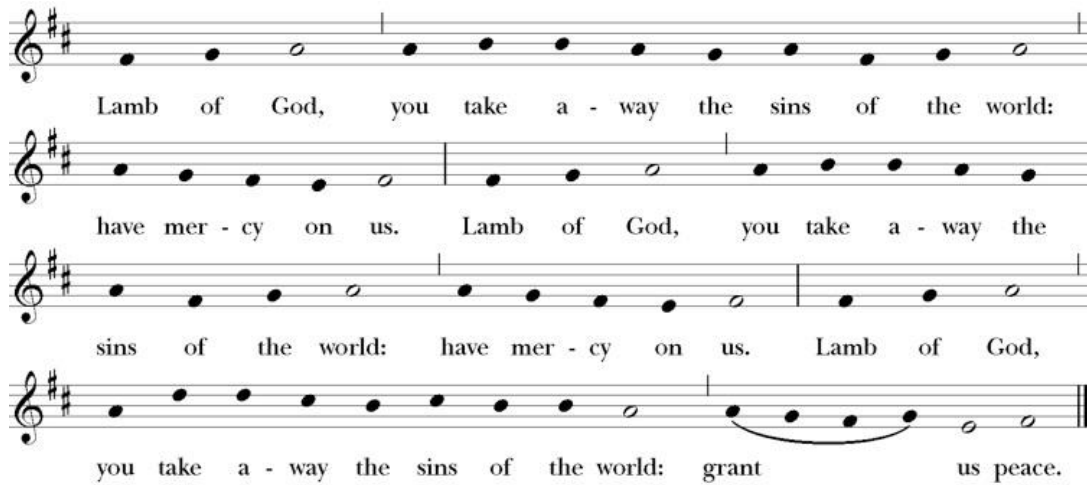
Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debt, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Agnus Dei



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

THE INVITATION

At St. Mark's Episcopal Church, all desiring a deepening and reaffirming relationship with Christ are invited to come forward for Holy Communion or for a blessing. This is the table not of the Church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love God. Come, not because the Church invites you; it is Christ who invites you to be fed and blessed here. For He knows you by name and calls you by name.

Communion will be offered in two kinds. The wine may be received by either sipping the chalice or dipping your wafer in the wine. If you do not wish to receive the wine, please indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest when the chalice reaches you at the altar rail. Communion in one kind (in bread only) is a perfectly valid way to receive the sacrament. Gluten free hosts are available upon request at the communion rail. For a blessing, cross your hands over your chest. If you would like to have communion brought to your seat, please let an usher know.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Jesus the Bread of Life
Let Us Break Bread Together

LEVAS 150
LEVAS 152

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says.

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

All: Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

LEVAS 111

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN

Thank You, Lord

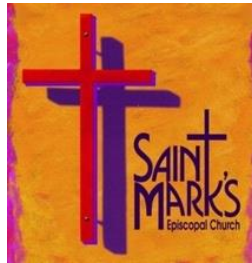
Sung by all.

Thank You, Lord (x's 3) I just want to thank you Lord.

You've Been So Good (x's 3) I just want to thank you Lord.

You've Been My Friend (x's 3) I just want to thank you Lord.

The worship is over. Now the service begins.



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

The Very Reverend Dr. Michael Shaffer, Celebrant & Preacher

Shawan Gillians, Crucifer & Eucharist Minister

Marj Kenney- Williams & Stacy Hill, Lectors

Ruth Breland, Samara Hawkins, Alphonso Grayson, Suzanne Hieserman, Altar Guild

Vicki Williams & Ginny Grayson, Ushers

*The Altar adornments are given by Rob and Jean Turner
in memory of their mother, Sandra Hamlin.*

Announcements

Bishop Ruth to visit St. Mark's Episcopal Church Sunday, March 17, 2024

Canon law requires every diocesan bishop to visit every congregation in his or her diocese at least once every three years. The canonical purposes of a visitation are for the bishop to examine the condition of the congregation, oversee the clergy, preach, confirm, preside at the eucharist, and examine parochial records. Each year since her election, our Bishop Ruth Woodliff-Stanley has made an official visitation to St. Mark's Episcopal Church. As one of our diocese historic African American parishes, Bishop Ruth is committed to our wellbeing and supports efforts underway to grow our parish and strengthen its financial foundation in 2024.

Bishop Ruth will make her annual visit to St. Mark's on Sunday, March 17, 2024, to show her support and share her counsel for the efforts being undertaken in 2024 to put St. Mark's on a good foundation for the future. So please make every effort to be present with us on March 17th. And if you have not been confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church and would like to be confirmed or received at the Bishop's Visitation, please contact Fr. Michael.



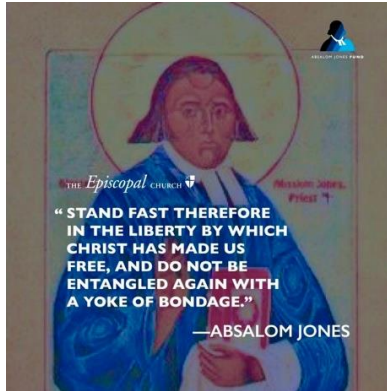
Celebrating James Baldwin's Centennial Birthday

A Conversation with Dr. Frank Thomas

Frank A. Thomas, PhD, who currently serves as the Director of the Compelling Preaching Initiative and the Nettie Sweeney and Hugh Th. Miller Professor of Homiletics at Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, Indiana, will be giving a talk at the International African American Museum on Thursday, February 29, 2024, from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

The writings of James Baldwin remain to this day, one of the greatest influences on the ministry of our Interim Rector, Fr. Michael. To commemorate and celebrate the 100th Birthday of James Baldwin, during his presentation, Dr. Frank Thomas will take us on a journey of how the faith of Baldwin has influenced his career as a writer. His life, legacy and literature are a testament of his belief in God that has inspired countless individuals throughout the world.

Admission to the exciting event is free, although advance reservations are required. We have almost 20 people associated with St. Marks who have registered to attend, and if you would like to do so, please register at the IAAM website.



Today's Loose Offering donated to The Absalom Jones Fund

The Absalom Jones Fund for Episcopal HBCUs supports two institutions affiliated with The Episcopal Church since the 1800s: Saint Augustine's University in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Voorhees University in Denmark, South Carolina.

In 1804, Absalom Jones became the first African American to be ordained a priest in The Episcopal Church. He understood that education is the key to empowerment. We honor Absalom Jones by supporting our HBCUs, which prepare the talented leaders who will continue the work of building a more just and humane society.

The St. Mark's Men's Club donates directly to Voorhees University each year, but this is our opportunity to support the Presiding Bishop in his effort to grow the Absalom Jones Fund for the Episcopal Church. All loose change will be donated to this Fund. If you prefer to write a check, please note "Absalom Jones Fund" in the memo line.



St. Mark's Episcopal Church

It is often said that we can't get to Easter without Good Friday. My friends, there is no resurrection without the brutality of the cross.

For many of us, it is a challenge to sit in that discomfort. It is more pleasant to jump from Jesus' triumphal entry on Palm Sunday to his resurrection on Easter morning. We'd often rather avoid the challenge of Holy Week. We prefer to ignore Good Friday because it is just so hard, and it reminds us too much of the world's ugliness. It reminds us too much, perhaps, of our own role in the world's ugliness, whether intentional or by passive complicities. But that pain is a necessary part of the journey. Let's be honest: the story makes no sense when we leave out that part. More fundamentally, that week is essential to our faith.

So, I invite you now to dedicating yourself to travel the full journey of Holy Week with us at St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

From early times Christians have observed the week before Easter as a time of special devotion. From this beginning evolved the rites we observe on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. These services provide a liturgical experience of the last days of Jesus' earthly life, as well as the time and events leading up to his resurrection. The Book of Common Prayer provides special liturgies for each of these days. The eucharistic lectionary also provides proper readings for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in Holy Week. In many dioceses, the diocesan clergy will make a reaffirmation of ordination vows in the context of a eucharist during Holy Week, usually before Maundy Thursday. *The three holy days, or Triduum, of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday are at the heart of the Holy Week observance.* In many Episcopal parishes, the liturgical color for Holy Week from Palm Sunday through Maundy Thursday is red. Holy Week ends at sundown on the Saturday before Easter

Please plan to be with us on the following days, and walk with Jesus, to and through the cross, and be *resurrected*.

March 28: Maundy Thursday

6 p.m. • Maundy Thursday Liturgy

We remember the Last Supper and Jesus' final teachings to his friends. Liturgy of The Word; Washing of Feet; Holy Eucharist. The service concludes with the Stripping of the Altar. Bread and wine consecrated at the Maundy Thursday liturgy are left on the altar in the side chapel until our Good Friday service, and all are invited to spend an hour or more in prayer, inspired by Jesus' words in the Garden of Gethsemane, "*could you not stay awake with me one hour?*"

March 29: Good Friday

Noon: Stations of the Cross Liturgy

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. • Reconciliation of a Penitent - *All may, none must, some should.*

Reconciliation of the Penitents is a Sacramental rite in which those who repent may confess their sins to God in the presence of a priest and receive the assurance of pardon and the grace of absolution (BCP, p. 861). It is also called penance and confession. The church's ministry of reconciliation is from God, "*who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation*" (2 Cor 5:18). The ministry of reconciliation has been committed by Christ to the church. It is exercised through the care each Christian has for others, through the common prayer of Christians assembled for public worship, and through the priesthood of the church and its ministers declaring absolution (BCP, p. 446). The Reconciliation of a Penitent is not limited to times of sickness. Confessions may be heard by Fr. Michael in the Sanctuary between 1:00 and 3:00 PM. The secrecy of the confession is morally absolute for the confessor and must not be broken (BCP, p. 446).

6:00 p.m. • Good Friday Liturgy

Recalling the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, the Good Friday liturgy is out-of-joint. The Passion Gospel; Solemn Collects; Contemplation of the Cross, with communion distributed.

March 30: Holy Saturday

12 p.m. • Holy Saturday Liturgy

A very short service, lasting only 15 minutes, listening to and contemplating a homily some scholars believe was composed by Melito, bishop of Sardis, who died circa 180.

March 31: Easter Sunday

10:00 a.m. - The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Festal Eucharist with Baptisms.

A Lenten Prayer by Henri Nouwen

The Lenten season begins. It is a time to be with you, Lord, in a special way, a time to pray, to fast, and thus to follow you on your way to Jerusalem, to Golgotha, and to the final victory over death.

I am still so divided. I truly want to follow you, but I also want to follow my own desires and lend an ear to the voices that speak about prestige, success, pleasure, power, and influence. Help me to become deaf to these voices and more attentive to your voice, which calls me to choose the narrow road to life.

I know that Lent is going to be a very hard time for me. The choice for your way has to be made every moment of my life. I have to choose thoughts that are your thoughts, words that are your words, and actions that are your actions. There are not times or places without choices. And I know how deeply I resist choosing you.

Please, Lord, be with me at every moment and in every place. Give me the strength and the courage to live this season faithfully, so that, when Easter comes, I will be able to taste with joy the new life that you have prepared for me. Amen.



