

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

A Christ-Centered Community of Practice Awakening to the Abiding Presence of God



The Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 17, 2024

WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

PRELUDE “*Let Us Break Bread Together*” by Marth Sobaje

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

After the Announcements, a period of silence is kept.

SILENT PROCESSION

Blessed be the God of our salvation:
Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

LENTEN CHANT

Attende Domine



The Celebrant says:

Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. *Matthew 11:28-29*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept

Almighty and most merciful God,
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 humankind
in Christ Jesus our Lord;
and grant, O most merciful God, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION

May the God of all mercy forgive you, draw you forth into life and peace, and make real the hope that we,
and all creation, be released from bondage and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SONG OF PRAISE

The Hymnal 458, v. 1 + 6

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me,
love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.
O who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

In life no house, no home my Lord on earth might have;
in death no friendly tomb but what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heaven was his home; but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people
grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of
the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

WE PROCLAIM AND RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

THE READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Following the Lesson...

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:9-16

Jerome Webster Meachen
(b. 1930)



© 1956, Jerome Webster Meachen.

9 How shall a young man cleanse his way? *
By keeping to your words.

10 With my whole heart I seek you; *
let me not stray from your commandments.

11 I treasure your promise in my heart, *
that I may not sin against you.

12 Blessed are you, O Lord; *
instruct me in your statutes.

13 With my lips will I recite *
all the judgments of your mouth.

14 I have taken greater delight in the way of your decrees *
than in all manner of riches.

15 I will meditate on your commandments *
and give attention to your ways.

16 My delight is in your statutes; *
I will not forget your word.

THE EPISTLE

Hebrews 5:5-10

Following the Lesson...

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
Thanks be to God.

HYMN

The Hymnal 474

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross where the young
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were an

Prince of Glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 cross of Christ, my God: all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
 of - fering far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Music: *Rockingham*, from *Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature*, ca. 1970; harm. Edward Miller (1731-1807).

Preceding the Gospel...

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 12: 20-33

Following the Gospel...

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Reverend Lars Hunter

After the sermon there is a period of silence.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayers are offered for the world, the church, the sick, etc. followed by a period of silence. Congregation members are invited to offer intercessions during the silence, either aloud or silently.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Following the Peace, the Celebrant recites a sentence from Holy Scripture; all prepare for the Holy Eucharist.

WE SHARE HOLY COMMUNION TOGETHER

ANTHEM “*Blagoslovi, dushe moya, Ghospoda*” (“*Bless the Lord, O My Soul*”) by Pavel Chesnokov

OFFERTORY HYMN

The Hymnal 691

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs a - round me spread,

Sa - vior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, O may my
be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day; wipe sor - row's

guilt a - way; O let me from this day be whol - ly thine.
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire.
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.

Words: Ray Palmer (1808-1887). Music: *Olivet*, Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

OFFERING

During the hymn, ushers pass the offering plates. Representatives from the parish bring the people's offerings of food bread and wine for the Eucharist, and money for mission and ministry to the Altar. You may also make a donation online at www.stmichaelsvermont.org under "Give" & "Give Online." Our ministry at St. Michael's depends on your generosity. Please consider making a donation or a pledge.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Presider praises God for God's creation and love. Then all sing the Sanctus together:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of

Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -

- ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

The Presider recalls and makes present for all Jesus' life and last supper.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Presider asks the Holy Spirit to consecrate the bread and the wine to be God's holy food.

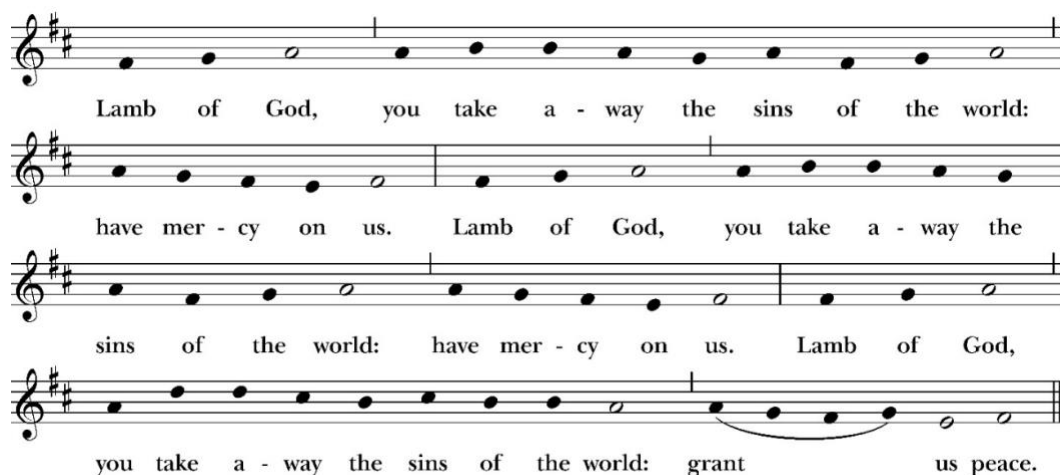
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who 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 trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. 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.

BREAD IS BROKEN

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.



Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

Celebrant: Come all you who hunger and thirst, come and eat, come and drink.

BREAD AND WINE ARE SHARED

Invitation to Receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion

At St. Michael's, we believe that God's love is unconditional. We welcome all people and we affirm the worth, dignity, and gifts of every person as a beloved child of God. In our celebration of the Eucharist, there is no one here who is ineligible or unwelcome; no one who has too many doubts or too few beliefs. This is the table of a loving God set for all creation through the power of Jesus Christ. You, who are part of that creation, are welcome.

Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. If you would like either, please indicate that preference to the liturgical minister. If you wish to come to the Altar for a blessing only, please fold your arms over your chest.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us
in these holy mysteries,
with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood
of our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us that we are very
members incorporate in the mystical body of Christ,
and are heirs, through hope, of your everlasting kingdom.
Assist us with your grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship,

and do all such good works as you have prepared for us to walk in;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the
 Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

WE ARE SENT AND GO FORTH INTO THE WORLD

LENTEN PRAYER

HYMN IN PROCESSION

The Hymnal 448, vs. 1, 4, 5, 6



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high, how pass - ing
 2 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
 3 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his
 4 For us to wick - ed hands be - trayed, scourged, mocked, in
 5 For us he rose from death a - gain; for us he
 6 All glo - ry to our Lord and God for love so

1 thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
 2 fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tions
 3 dai - ly works he wrought: by words and signs and
 4 pur - ple robe ar - rayed, he bore the shame - ful
 5 went on high to reign; for us he sent his
 6 deep, so high, so broad; the Trin - i - ty whom

1 God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake.
 2 sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er ov - er - threw.
 3 ac - tions, thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.
 4 cross and death; for us gave up his dy - ing breath.
 5 Spi - rit here to guide, to strength - en, and to cheer.
 6 we a - dore for ev - er and for ev - er - more.

Words: Latin, 15th cent.; tr. Benjamin Webb (1819-1885), alt. Music: *Deus tuorum militum*, from *Antiphoner*, 1753; adapt. *The English Hymnal*, 1906, alt.; harm. after Basil Harwood (1859-1949).

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE “*Canzona*” by Gordon Young

Participants Today

The Reverend Lars Hunter, deacon; *Alli Ackerman-Hovis*, lay assistant; *Jenny Karstad* and *Joyce Vining Morgan*, readers and element bearers; *Margery McCrum*, intercessor; *Alex O’Pray*, chalice; *Carolyn Taylor-Olson*, healing minister; *Robin Manning* and *David Baxendale*, ushers; *Megan Buchanan*, coffee hour host; *Jane Sbardella* and *Craig Newbert*, Altar Guild.

At St. Michael’s we believe that God’s love is unconditional. We welcome all people and we affirm the worth, dignity, and gifts of every person as a beloved child of God.

All are welcome to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion.

- **WELCOME TO VISITORS!** All are welcome at this table. If you have any questions about the liturgy, location of the bathrooms, or anything else, please ask one of the ushers or greeters. Thank you for joining us today.
- **TO RECEIVE THE RITE OF HEALING:** Trained lay healing ministers are available in the chapel to pray with you individually before or after you receive communion. A healing minister will say prayers, lay her or his hands upon you, and anoint you with consecrated oil. You can come for yourself, for another person, for a need or for a thanksgiving. Please ask ushers for assistance if you have questions.
- **GLUTEN FREE WAFERS AND GRAPE JUICE** are available for Communion at both 8:00 am and 10:15 services. Please make yourselves known to the priest when you come up for Communion.
- **CHILDREN ARE WELCOME HERE!** There are clipboards with paper and crayons, as well as activity bags with coloring books at the back of the Sanctuary for children who are interested in coloring or drawing during the service. Feel free to come in and out of the worship area as needed with your children! Please ask an usher if you need assistance.

ST. MICHAEL'S WEEKDAY WORSHIP

Morning Prayer, 8-8:30 am, Monday-Friday, on Zoom, Tuesday-Thursday in-person the Chapel

Breakfast with the Psalms, 8:30-10 am, Wednesday at The Works, Main St, Brattleboro

Centering Prayer, 11:30-11:55 am, Wednesday in the Chapel

Eucharist with the Saints, 12 noon-12:30, Wednesday in the Chapel

Contemplative Worship, 5:30-6:00 pm, Thursday in the Chapel, in-person and on Zoom

Centering Prayer, 8 am, Saturday in the Chapel

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: *Karen Guthrie*, Tuesday; *Bob Walker*, Wednesday; *Bruce Lawrence*, Friday.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO: *Kate & Dana McGinn*, Saturday

ADULT FORUMS IN MARCH: “SPEAKING CHRISTIAN: Sin? Forgiveness? Salvation? What do we mean?” In our worship we speak our own language and it is called “Christian.” It is steeped in history and has changed meanings down through time. We often speak words without being sure what they mean. People can use the same words but mean something very different. Yet, these words have carried the message of Christianity and formed the language we use since the very beginning. This series of three Adult Forms in Lent has taken some of the most fundamental Christian words and invites us to explore what they have meant down through time and what they mean and do not mean to us today.

- **Today, March 17: “SALVATION”** Led by Phillip Wilson

SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY:

- **Godly Play** (for ages 3 and up) will hear about the story of St. Patrick and the Faces of Easter. Susan Heimer is the storyteller.
- **Upper El** will meet next on April 14 and April 28.

FINAL MEETING THIS TUESDAY OF ST. MICHAEL’S 2024 LENTEN STUDY- *WISDOM IN THE WILDERNESS: DISCOVERING PATHWAYS TOWARD HOPE*; TUESDAY, 5:30–6:45 PM:

This is our last of five sessions and we will meet in the Chapel. **When:** Tuesday, March 19. **Where:** This is a *hybrid offering*, which means that you may gather in-person in the Meeting Room at St. Michael’s or you may attend using the Zoom link in the eNews.

“BAPTISM & COLLABORATION IN THE BODY OF CHRIST”: A DIOCESAN LENTEN

STUDY THROUGH APRIL 4: On Thursday evenings in Lent and the beginning of Easter, February 15-April 4 from 5:45-7:45, the Green Mountain Online Abbey is hosting adult formation conversations based on our devotional “Baptism and Collaboration in the Body of Christ.” Each week focuses on a different question in the baptismal covenant and will engage with the writings of lay and ordained authors from both Vermont and Massachusetts. It will be a wonderful time to explore our own baptisms and to be in fellowship with people from across our province. Use the **links in the eNews to read or download the devotional and to join the Thursday conversations.**

DISCUSSION GROUP ON AGING (II) BEGINS FIRST WEEK OF APRIL: The first Aging Discussion Group has completed its 8-week term and has decided to continue. Others have expressed interest in a similar group discussion. I’d like to offer a second group, Aging II, to start the week after Easter, day to be determined, based on the Joan Chittister book “The Gift of Years.” We’ll meet for an hour and fifteen minutes for 8 weeks. The book is available widely, or I can ask Everyone’s Books to order some. Please let me know if you are interested: jeffrey.m.lewis@comcast.net, or 802-579-3877.

REMINDER - TAG SALE DONATIONS NOW OPEN: Donations for the St. Michael’s Tag Sale, which will be held on Sat., May 4, are now open for clothing and accessories, jewelry, linens, housewares, books and puzzles. All items should be clean and in good condition. For further information, please refer to the recent weeks’ guidelines in the Thurs. E-News and Sun. Bulletins, or review the signs on the Tag Sale donation closet doors. Donations may be left inside these closets which are located in the downstairs hallway off the parking lot. Thank you very much!

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Livestream links can be found on St. Michael's website, www.stmichaelsvermont.org

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24

8 am Holy Eucharist

9–10 am Coffee Hour

10 am Gather outside for our Palm Sunday Parade

10:15 am Holy Eucharist & Procession with Palms (*Livestreamed*)

MONDAY-THURSDAY

12-12:30 pm Contemplative Eucharist in the Chapel

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

12 pm Contemplative Holy Eucharist

7:00 pm Tenebrae Service (*Livestreamed*)

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 28

5:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service (beginning with Dinner in the Undercroft)

This service will be Livestreamed beginning at 7pm

8 pm Nightwatch

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29

12 noon Proper liturgy for Good Friday (no music or veneration of the cross)

7:00 pm Proper liturgy for Good Friday with veneration of the cross (*Livestreamed*)

HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 30

9-9:30 am Holy Saturday

7:30 pm The Great Vigil of Easter followed by a celebratory reception (*Livestreamed*)

SUNDAY, EASTER DAY, MARCH 31

8 am Holy Eucharist

10:15 am Festival Holy Eucharist (*Livestreamed*)

What is Holy Week?

During the last week of the Lenten season we celebrate **Holy Week**, a sacred time of the year for Christians when the events of Christ's passion and death are remembered. In the remembering of the sacred stories, we hope not only to remember, but to experience the drama of these stories ourselves, that we may know Christ's love for us in a new way. All are welcome at any or all of these services!

Palm Sunday, March 24, 8 & 10:15 am -- This special liturgy begins with a procession (with spirited music) of the congregation and the blessing of the palms, commemorating the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. The service underlines the contrast between the crowd's joyous greeting of their king and then their condemnation of him—the contrast between shouts of “Alleluia” and “Crucify him!”

Monday-Thursday, March 25-29: 12-12:30 pm – In preparation for the dense liturgies of Maundy Thursday through Easter Vigil, there will be Eucharist at noon in the chapel on Monday through Thursday during Holy Week. The service will include an opening chant, reading a portion of the Passion according to Matthew, a sparse consecration and sharing of holy communion, and silence. Come to one or more of these brief liturgies as we prepare our hearts to walk on the road Jesus walks with us.

Wednesday, March 27, 7 pm -- Tenebrae, “The Service of Shadows,” offers us a time to be prayerful and reflective together in the midst of the darkness that is part of the Lenten season. This is a quiet and contemplative service of scripture and poetry readings, music, Taize chants and singing.

Maundy Thursday, March 28, 5:30 pm - The word *Maundy* is derived from the Latin word, *mandatum* (commandment), and refers to Jesus giving the “new commandment” to “love one another as I have loved you” (John 13:34) to his disciples at the Last Supper. The Maundy Thursday service commemorates the Last Supper and often focuses on two things Jesus did at the Last Supper: washing of the disciples' feet and the institution of the sacrament of Holy Communion. We begin in the Undercroft with a simple meal then go to the candle-lit sanctuary for voluntary foot-washing, Eucharist and the remembrance of Jesus' time in the Garden of Gethsemane, ending with the stripping of the altar. There will be an optional time of silent prayer (Nightwatch) in the church and in the chapel following the service. The Church will remain open all night for prayer.

Good Friday, March 29, 12 pm & 7 pm commemorates the Crucifixion of Jesus. During this solemn service, we mourn for the death of Jesus and for our own sins. There will be music at the 7 pm service. No Eucharist is celebrated on this day.

The Great Vigil of Easter, Saturday, March 30, 7:30pm : We gather outside to light the new fire of Easter and move from darkness to light telling the ancient stories of God's people. This is the “king of all liturgies” of the Christian year and this year is extra special because we will be celebrating the baptism of an adult, Gabriel Sistare. The service is followed by a festive Easter Reception of chocolate, cheese and fruit.

Easter Sunday, March 31, 8 + 10:15 am, is the most important day of celebration in the Christian Year. On this day we celebrate how Christ overcame death to rise to new life, offering his redemption and

love to all.