



March 20, 2022

St. Matthew's Episcopal Cathedral

Processional

“If thou but trust in God”

Hymnal 635

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People **His mercy endures for ever.**

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, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
1 John 1:8,9

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.
People Christ, have mercy.
Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The First Lesson - Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.” When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then he said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” He said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now

come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” He said, “I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.” But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'” God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 63:1-8

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; *
 my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
 as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.
Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, *
 that I might behold your power and your glory.
For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; *
 my lips shall give you praise.
So will I bless you as long as I live *
 and lift up my hands in your Name.
My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, *
 and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
When I remember you upon my bed, *
 and meditate on you in the night watches.
For you have been my helper, *
 and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
My soul clings to you; *
 your right hand holds me fast.

The Second Lesson – 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

A Prayer for Peace

Written by April French

In the Eastern Orthodox Christian tradition, which is practiced widely in both Ukraine and Russia, the prayer “Lord, have mercy” is repeated frequently, sometimes even three times in a row. We invite you to pray this phrase throughout this extended prayer for peace.

In both the Ukrainian and Russian languages, the word “mir” means both “peace” and “world.” We, fellow citizens of the world, pray desperately for peace!

Lord, have mercy!

We pray for Ukrainians in Russia, Russians in Ukraine, Ukrainians and Russians married to each other (and their children), people in both countries who have relatives and close friends in the other country, and people of either nationality who are citizens of the other country. May the complexities of their realities draw them closer to each other in spirit and in truth, not farther apart. May those who have succumbed to Russian propaganda have their eyes opened in ways they cannot deny so they can stand in support of their beloved family, friends, and neighbors who are experiencing the devastation of war.

Lord, have mercy!

Lord, have mercy!

Lord, have mercy!

We pray for citizens of Ukraine who are faced daily with difficult choices. May they trust their decisions while refusing to succumb to the temptation to judge their fellow citizens for choosing differently.

Lord, have mercy!

We pray for citizens of Ukraine who have chosen to or been commanded to remain in their country to defend their territory, some of them having to say goodbye to their spouses and children as they flee the violence. May your presence and peace guide them in the face of fear, chaos, and tyranny.

Lord, have mercy!

We pray for citizens of Ukraine who are blockaded within besieged cities. May they find ways to survive despite a lack of secure utilities, water, or food. Be their light in the darkness.

Lord, have mercy!

Lord, have mercy!

Lord, have mercy!

We pray for the more than 3 million refugees who have fled Ukraine for the safety of their families. May they have their needs met, even as this ongoing tragedy unfolds in Ukraine. And for the countries welcoming them, may you give them stamina in the spreading of their generosity.

Lord, have mercy!

Lord, have mercy!

Lord, have mercy!

We pray for political and military leaders - those directly involved and those in allied countries - that their conscience be stirred and their sense of justice and our common humanity be kindled.

Lord, have mercy!

We pray against the dehumanization of the people in Ukraine by the Russian government and their spreading of this message via propaganda. We pray that a deep understanding of the shared image of God in everyone will somehow prevail above any displaced nationalism, and soon!

Lord, have mercy!

We strongly pray against the evil of ongoing and indiscriminate bombing by the Russian military against civilians in Ukraine.

Lord, have mercy!

We strongly pray against the ecological and existential threats of dangerously expropriated nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons systems on standby.

Lord, have mercy!

Lord, have mercy!

Lord, have mercy!

We also strongly pray against any xenophobic sentiment or actions against Russian people living in Russia and throughout the world. May we all know that we share a common humanity and are all made in the image of God.

Lord, have mercy!

We pray for Russians who are protesting the war (or merely calling this a war), especially in the face of new laws declaring their actions illegal, with threats of up to 15 years in prison.

Lord, have mercy!

We pray for everyday citizens of Russia, who have experienced the values of their salaries cut in half and their grocery bills more than doubling (or even worse) due to the strictures of the sanctions placed on their banks. We pray for those who have already lost their jobs and for those who cannot access enough funds to pay for food. Be their daily bread.

Lord, have mercy!

Lord, have mercy!

Lord, have mercy!

We pray for the safety and wisdom of foreigners in both Ukraine and Russia, as they make decisions of whether to stay or go. If they decide to go, may their way not be blocked due to prejudice, xenophobia, or red tape.

Lord, have mercy!

We pray for people of all faiths or no faith who are suffering in Ukraine. May those who are people of faith lean on their God for provision, assistance, and mercy. May those who do not hold to a faith find an anchor of hope in the midst of deep challenge.

Lord, have mercy!

And please teach each of us to seek how we can help, in our own small way. We need your wisdom and light.

Lord, have mercy!

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

The Peace *All stand*

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Offertory Hymn

“Let us break bread together”

Hymnal 325

Presentation Hymn

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost**

This is the Lord’s table where ALL are welcome.

If you would prefer to receive a blessing rather than communion, please come forward and cross your arms over your chest. If you do not wish to receive wine please know that receiving only the bread is still a full communion

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 our thanks and praise.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; You have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love.

Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said:
“Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said:
“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world.

Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.
AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The Leader breaks the consecrated bread. Silence is kept.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

grant us peace.

Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Communion**Post Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving**

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing**Recessional Hymn**

“Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing ”

Hymnal 344

Sending

May the steadfast love of God surround you throughout these forty days and into everlasting life.

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Valentina Gavrilova