St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

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The Second Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2014 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II

Prelude

Jesu Joy of Our Desiring (9:30 Only)

W.B. Cooper

Shirley Ratliff, soloist

The Word of God

At the tolling of the bell, all stand.

The great Creator of the worlds

Hymnal 489

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant

Entrance Hymn

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

The Confession (Please kneel as able)

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People: 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.

The Celebrant stands for the absolution; the people remain kneeling through the end of the collect.

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. **Amen.**

Kyrie (sung) Hymnal S 96

Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

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*.

First Reading Genesis 12:1-4a

The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

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

Psalm 121 Psalm is spoken

- I lift up my eyes to the hills; * from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD, * the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved * and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel * shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The LORD himself watches over you; * the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, * nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; * it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, * from this time forth for evermore.

The Second Lesson Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

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.

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

Sequence Hymn

My faith looks up to thee

Hymnal 691

The Gospel John 3:1-17

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Reverend Bradford A. Rundlett, Rector

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

Leader: Sons and daughters of God, sisters and brothers in Christ, let us pray. (*Silence*)

Leader: God of luminous glory, we lift our voices on behalf of the world you have made. Your creation is threatened by human greed and casual disregard. Give us knowledge and wisdom, compassion and courage. Help us revere and preserve this magnificent earth and all of your creatures. Gracious Creator, help us restore your world. (Silence)

Leader: Benevolent Governor, we pray for communities and nations devastated by poverty, tyranny, and war. We wound, enslave, and destroy one another. Have mercy on us. Draw us ever more deeply into your love, that we may establish peace and equity for all. **Healer of the world, save us from ourselves.**

(Silence)

Leader: Divine Benefactor, your world is in upheaval, the economy is turmoil; show us new solutions for our problems. Help us create new industries that are good for the earth, and good for your people. Lead us through these stressful and uncertain times to a better world, a better economy, and a better life for all people. **God of the Exodus, guide us into a future full of promise.** (Silence)

Leader: Steadfast Deliverer, we plead for your Church. We are divided, many of your people are persecuted; we have been silent and complacent, unresponsive to your Gospel. Grant us new faith and vision, integrity and passion. Unite us in your truth and inspire us with your love. **Merciful Redeemer, renew your Church.**

(Silence)

Leader: Blessed Savior, we cry out to you for people who are injured, sick, and suffering; for the victims of natural disasters and human contempt. Increase our knowledge, wisdom, and concern for one another. Help the entire human family respond quickly and graciously when any of our neighbors are in crisis; help us provide comfort and relief to our sisters and brothers who are in anguish. Lamb of God, heal your people; make us whole.

(Silence)

Leader: Sovereign of Heaven and earth, we give thanks for the people we love who have died, and pray for those who will pass this week into paradise. Deliver us from faithless fears and anxieties. Confirm our faith in your promises. God of hope and salvation, help us bear the cross with dignity, and proclaim the Gospel with confidence.

(Silence)

Leader: Bread of heaven, cup of Salvation, we pray for one another. We stumble and fall. We wander and fail. Help us become the people you want us to be – fill us with faith, hope, and love; generosity, peace, and joy. Blessed Jesus, infuse us with your Spirit, and direct us in your service.

(Silence)

Leader: God of providence, Host of Heaven, we do not deserve the blessings you bestow so generously and abundantly. Give us grateful hearts, we pray, and make us faithful stewards of all your gifts, that your love may be known throughout the world, and your praises sung by all creation, now and for ever. Gracious and compassionate Savior, we praise you, we thank you, and we offer ourselves to you - all we are and all we have. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Welcome & Announcements

The Offering

Celebrant: But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The Holy Communion

Offertory

(9:30 only) Lead me, Lord S. S. Wesley

St. Cecilia & St. Ambrose Choirs

(11:00 only) Lift thine eyes F. Mendelssohn

Rose Berberich, Nancy Miller, Jane Perry, Trio

Presentation Hymn

This is my Father's world

Sung to the tune of Creation

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
All nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres;
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the wonders wrought.

This is our Father's world, oh let us not forget
That though the wrong is great and strong, God is our Father yet.
He trusts us with his world; to keep it clean and fair,
All earth and trees, all skies and seas, all creatures everywhere.

The Great Thanksgiving

The people remain standing.

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLift up your hearts.

People We lift them up to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You bid your 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 your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

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

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

Celebrant On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN!**

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

Fraction Anthem Jesus, Lamb of God Hymnal S 164

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world: give us your peace, give us your peace.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Administration of Communion

Communion Hymn When Christ was lifted from the earth Hymnal 603

I come with joy to meet my Lord Hymnal 304

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God,

we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior, Jesus Christ;

and for assuring us in these holy mysteries

that we are living members of the Body of your Son,

and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out

to do the work you have given us to do,

to love and serve you

as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit

be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen

The Blessing

Closing Hymn Lift high the cross Hymnal 473

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude