

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

8 Sunnyside Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570
The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius, Rector
Stjohnspleasantville.org 914-769-0053



PRAYER FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

GOD OF THE DESERT,
FILL OUR HUNGRY HEARTS
WITH FAITH IN YOU.

WHEN WE FEEL ALONE,
HELP US SEE YOU THERE WITH US.

GIVE US THE COURAGE
TO CRY OUT TO YOU.

AMEN.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

21 FEBRUARY 2021

MORNING PRAYER: RITE TWO 9:30AM

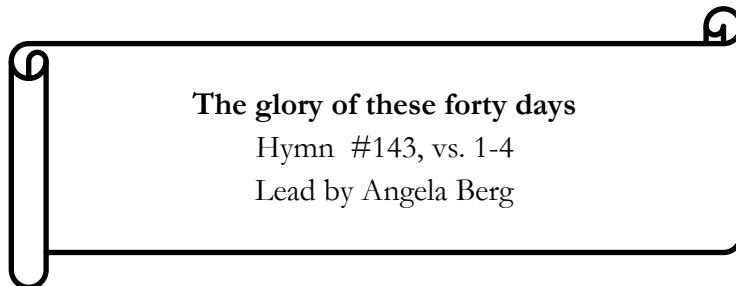
ONLINE SERVICE

This morning we celebrate a Service of Morning Prayer. This service is taken from the *1979 Book of Common Prayer*. **Words printed in bold are spoken by the congregation.**

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

ALEXANDER ARCHANGELSKY TRAISAGION



1 The glory of these forty days
we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, through whom all things were made,
himself has fasted and has prayed.

2 Alone and fasting Moses saw
the loving God who gave the law;
and to Elijah, fasting, came
the steeds and chariots of flame.

3 So Daniel trained his mystic sight,
delivered from the lions' might;
and John, the Bridegroom's friend, became
the herald of Messiah's name.

4 Then grant us, Lord, like them to be
full oft in fast and prayer with thee;
our spirits strengthen with thy grace,
and give us joy to see thy face.

AN EXHORTATION

Officiant: Let us Pray

Beloved in the Lord: Our Savior Christ, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood as a sign and pledge of his love, for the continual remembrance of the sacrifice of his death, and for a spiritual sharing in his risen life. For in these holy Mysteries we are made one with Christ, and Christ with us; we are made one body in him, and members one of another.

Having in mind, therefore, his great love for us, and in obedience to his command, his Church renders to Almighty God our heavenly Father never-ending thanks for the creation of the world, for his continual providence over us, for his love for all mankind, and for the redemption of the world by our Savior Christ, who took upon himself our flesh, and humbled himself even to death on the cross, that he might make us the children of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, and exalt us to everlasting life.

Examine your lives and conduct by the rule of God's commandments, that you may perceive wherein you have offended in what you have done or left undone, whether in thought, word, or deed. And acknowledge your sins before Almighty God, with full purpose of amendment of life, being ready to make restitution for all injuries and wrongs done by you to others; and also being ready to forgive those who have offended you, in order that you yourselves may be forgiven. And then, being reconciled with one another, come to the banquet of that most heavenly Food.

And if, in your preparation, you need help and counsel, then go and open your grief to a discreet and understanding priest, and confess your sins, that you may receive the benefit of absolution, and spiritual counsel and advice; to the removal of scruple and doubt, the assurance of pardon, and the strengthening of your faith.

To Christ our Lord who loves us, and washed us in his own blood, and made us a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father, to him be glory in the Church evermore. Through him let us offer continually the sacrifice of praise, which is our bounden duty and service, and, with faith in him, come boldly before the throne of grace.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

All: **Most holy and merciful Father we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault, in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done and what we have left undone.**

Officiant: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

People: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Deacon: We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

People: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Officiant: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

People: **We confess to you, Lord**

Deacon: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

People: **We confess to you, Lord**

Officiant: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

People: **We confess to you, Lord**

Deacon: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

People: **We confess to you, Lord**

Officiant: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

People: **We confess to you, Lord**

Deacon: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

People: **Accept our repentance, Lord**

Officiant: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

People: **Accept our repentance, Lord**

Deacon: For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

People: **Accept our repentance, Lord**

Officiant Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

People: **Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great**

Deacon: Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

People: **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

Officiant By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

People: **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Officiant

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen**

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

PSALM 25 :1-9

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

3 Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.

4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies..”

Officiant: The Lord is full of compassion and mercy;

People: **Come let us adore God.**

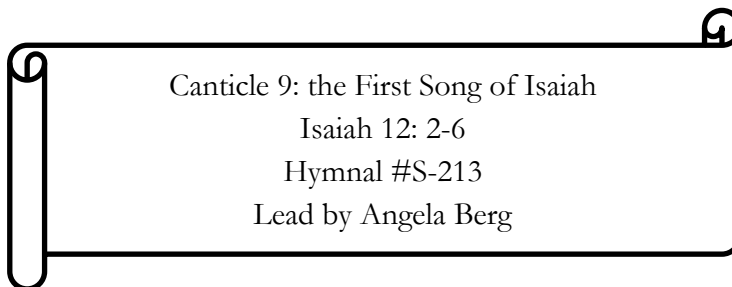
A READING FROM 1 PETER 3:18-22

Read by: Patricia Connolly

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good

conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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



Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the peoples; *

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen..

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK 9:1-15

Reader: The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Deacon: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

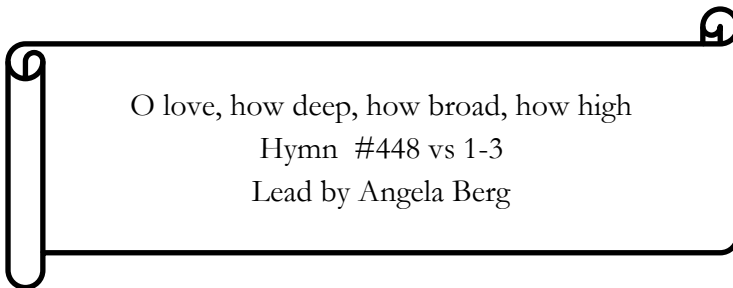
THE HOMILY

THE REV. MARY B. GREGORIUS

THE PEACE

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalms 50:1-4*



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
how passing thought and fantasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake.

2 For us baptized, for us he bore
his holy fast and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharp he knew;
for us the tempter overthrew.

3 For us he prayed; for us he taught;
for us his daily works he wrought:
by words and signs and actions, thus
still seeking not himself, but us.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

Officiant and People

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.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

PRAYER FOR THE RENEWAL OF LIFE

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. *Amen.*

Announcements

THE BLESSING

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius

DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

CHARLES WESLEY

LOVE DIVINE

STEWARDSHIP

The Book of Genesis tells us that after the Great Flood God made a Covenant with us, the symbol of that Covenant is the bow in the clouds. The bow tells us that God remembers us. What sign do we have that we remember God? Our commitment to build Church, to build and support a community formed out of faith in God's remembrance.

If you have not yet made your 2021 Pledge to St. John's please do so at your earliest convenience. Pledge cards available on our website, stjohnspleasantville.org.

Please keep these beloved folks in your private prayers this week, contact Mother Mary+ if you would like to add anyone to our Prayer list

We pray for all those suffering with COVID-19, especially **Cindy and Dave**.

We pray for all those struggling to find the light of Christ in this skeptical world

We pray for peace and unity among us as we seek a new way forward as people of faith.

We pray for our Nation may we work to build harmony.

We pray for those who are in the hospital or home recuperating, especially: **Laura O'Malley** (John & Clare McAndrew's niece), **Yumi, Linda Hill, Ronald Garvey, Max, Anne, Cathy, Barbara, Hudson** Beaugard; **Ellie Ruvo, Steven Schubert, Martha Thornley** and **Shlomo Teladano**

We pray for those who are homebound: **Esmerilda Hastings, Margaret Vaccaro, John & Lee Williams, Dorothy Dushin, Ronald Acheson, Jim, Marge, Joe Smith, Carolyn Damiano, Deanna Ammirato** and **Bill & Dorothy D'Amato**.

We pray for those struggling with chronic illness, especially: **Liz & Jeff Daniele, Andrew Tom, Rena Kaplan, Rebecca, Vince Servio, Sarah Paruolo, Annaliese Haag, Martha, Gerald, Marilyn Griffin, Joyce, Paul Ruvo, Helene, Jason, Peter, Hannelore,** and **Jeff**.

We pray for **Edwin Sanchez and the students at El Hogar School**, and the American **Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem**.

We pray for those who have died, especially the over 450,000 in this country who have died from COVID-19.

The Pleasantville Emergency Food Pantry NEEDS YOUR HELP

The pantry has moved from the Methodist Church, building is being closed down, to a site on Commerce St. in Hawthorne for which they pay rent. Please donate either food or funds through St. John's.

CALENDAR:

New Evening Lenten Programming 2021 Wednesdays from 7PM-8PM

Based on the book "Flunking Sainthood" by Jana Riess. A delightful look at our praiseworthy efforts to center our lives in the goodness of God and our repeated failures to stay focused. No guilt attached.

Click here to [sign up](#) or call the office if you are interested in attending one or more of the sessions below.

2/24/21 - Fasting - Are there any brownies? Do Sundays count?

3/3/21 - Meditation - Look! A squirrel!

3/10/21 - Searching Scripture - The Gems are there. No Magic Answers

3/17/21 - Feasting and Hospitality - Finally, something I am good at

3/24/21 - Praise Jesus - The song & dance man. Shake, rattle and roll

3/31/21 - Gratitude & Celebration - Responding with Joy!

Tuesday Noon Prayers, via ZOOM, watch for link

Thursday Bible Study, we are taking up Paul's Letter to the Romans, via ZOOM

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