

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2015



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
1512 Willow
Blytheville, AR 72315

The Rt. Rev. Larry Benfield, Bishop of Arkansas
Fr. John Scott Trotter

870 740 9777
www.saintstephensblytheville.org
www.facebook.com/ststephensblytheville

Opening Rites

I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” *Luke 15:18, 19*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All say together

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.

Officiant:

May the Almighty God grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

The people stand as they are able.

Invitatory and Psalter

Invitatory

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People *And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

Officiant and People 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 Lord is full of compassion and mercy: O come, let us adore him.

The Invitatory

Jubilate Psalm 100

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *

serve the Lord with gladness

and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; *

he himself has made us, and we are his;

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;

go into his courts with praise; *

give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;

his mercy is everlasting; *

and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: Come let us adore him.

A period of silence is kept.

Psalm 107:1-3,17-22

BCP p. 746

- I Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
and his mercy endures for ever.

- 2 Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.
- 3 He gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.
- 17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; *
they were afflicted because of their sins.
- 18 They abhorred all manner of food *
and drew near to death's door.
- 19 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.
- 20 He sent forth his word and healed them *
and saved them from the grave.
- 21 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.
- 22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

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.

A period of silence is kept.

The Liturgy of the Word

A reading from The Book of Numbers (21:4-9).

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go
around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the
way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have
you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is
no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶ Then the
Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the
people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and

said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord
People
Thanks be to God

A period of silence is kept.

A Song of Penitence

Canticle 14

BCP p. 90

Prayer of Manasseh, 1-2, 4, 6-7, 11-15

Canticle 14

A Song of Penitence

Kyrie Pantokrator

O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven, *

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
and of all their righteous offspring:

You made the heavens and the earth, *
with all their vast array.

All things quake with fear at your presence; *
they tremble because of your power.

But your merciful promise is beyond all measure; *
it surpasses all that our minds can fathom.

O Lord, you are full of compassion, *
long-suffering, and abounding in mercy.

You hold back your hand; *
you do not punish as we deserve.

In your great goodness, Lord,
you have promised forgiveness to sinners, *
that they may repent of their sin and be saved.

And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart, *
and make my appeal, sure of your gracious goodness.

I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, *
and I know my wickedness only too well.
Therefore I make this prayer to you: *
Forgive me, Lord, forgive me.
Do not let me perish in my sin, *
nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.
For you, O Lord, are the God of those who repent, *
and in me you will show forth your goodness.
Unworthy as I am, you will save me,
in accordance with your great mercy, *
and I will praise you without ceasing all the days of my life.
For all the powers of heaven sing your praises, *
and yours is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.

A period of silence is kept.

A reading from The Letter of Paul to the Ephesians (2:1-10).

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The Word of the Lord

People
Thanks be to God

A period of silence is kept.

The Song of Zechariah

Canticle 16

BCP p. 92

Luke 1:68-79

Canticle 16

The Song of Zechariah

Benedictus Dominus Deus

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *

he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *

born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,

that he would save us from our enemies, *

from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *

and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, *

holy and righteous in his sight

all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation *

by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the

shadow of death, *

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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.

A period of silence is kept.

Gospel

A reading from the Gospel according to John (3:14-21).

¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ “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. ¹⁷ “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. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

The Word of the Lord

People

Thanks be to God

A period of silence is kept.

Sermon

The people stand as they are able.

The Apostles' Creed

All say together

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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.

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. We praise your Name for ever.
V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;
R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;
R. For we put our trust in you.
V. In you, Lord, is our hope;
R. And we shall never hope in vain.

Collect of the Day

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Collect for Sunday

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Collect for 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.*

Collect for Guidance

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayer for Mission

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #690 - Guide Me Thou O Great Jehovah

Prayers of the People

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

After each paragraph of this prayer, the People may make an appropriate response, as directed.

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 _____], 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

_____], 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 [_____ and] all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

Additional petitions and thanksgivings may be included here.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear [especially _____], beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of [_____ and of] 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.*

General 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.

Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Closing Sentence

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.
Ephesians 3:20, 21

Prayers

Charles, Carolyn, Charlotte, Caden, Tony, the Meadows family, Barbara-Dale, Dale, Angie, Marcel, Nicholas E, Pat P, Beth - Amy & Ian, Chuck and, the Lutes family, St. Ambrose, those suffering from seasonal storms, meals on wheels, making better, men of young men, those serving our country, those traveling, and for those we now name...

Announcements

Come to Friday Families 6:00 pm, for food, fellowship and a flick

Community Evening Prayer 1st United Methodist 5:00 pm

Holy Week Services – Blytheville Ministerial Alliance: 3/30 – 4/3, @ noon, local churches hosting with local pastors preaching, lunch provided at 12:30

Calendar

3/15 4th Sunday in Lent

9:00 am Worship

10:00 am Fellowship

3/17 6:00 pm Al Anon

3/20 6:00 pm Friday Families

3/22 5th Sunday in Lent

9:00 am Eucharist

10:00 am Sunday School

Worship Leaders

Date	Proper	Service	Eucharistic Minister Worship Leader	Reader	Intercessor
3/15	Lent 4	MP	Mike	Corbet	Beth
3/22	Lent 5		Liz	Beth	Mike
3/29	Palm Sunday	Procession of Palms	Beth	Kathryn	Corbet

Farm Retreat: Transplanting

March 27–28, at Camp Mitchell

The Camp Mitchell Agricultural Project is hosting its first Farm Retreat, March 27–28. It will begin at 5 p.m. Friday and end at 3 p.m. Saturday. Participants will work together to transplant seedlings into the garden and also explore the idea of “transplanting” in other ways. All ages are welcome; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$45 per person and includes Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch, and bunk-style lodging. To register or for more information, Doug and Jenny Knight.

Time for Joy

April 24–26, at Camp Mitchell

Time for J.O.Y. is a weekend of renewal and support designed for young women living stress-filled lives. The purpose of the retreat is to provide experiences which affirm and encourage young women in their spiritual journey. This year, the retreat will be held April 25–27, at Camp Mitchell. The cost is \$170. Visit the ECW website for more information and to download a registration form.

Adult Camp

April 27–30, at Camp Mitchell Adult Camp is a return to childhood, like summer musical instrument, eat s'mores, make friends. The cost is \$300 per person, with reserve your place, email Camp Mitchell or call 501-727-5451

Fr. Scott's contact

870 740 9777

frscott04@gmail.com



St. Stephen's contact

saint.stephens@att.net

www.saintstephensblytheville.org

www.facebook.com/ststephensblytheville

870 763 8646



Created using *riteworship*. All musical selections reprinted with the permission of *ritesong*. All rights reserved. Used with permission. All scripture passages are taken from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.