The First Sunday in Lent
“to commend the faith that is in us”

March 10, 2019
10:30 a.m.

St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church
Middlebury, Vermont

Our purpose: To grow in God’s love and serve Christ in all people
Our mission: To be an inclusive community awake to God in worship, learning and service
10:30 a.m.  Holy Eucharist  Rite II

Prelude

Ingoma

The Liturgy of the Word  Rite II

A Penitential Order

Hymn

The glory of these forty days  Hymnal 143

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 fasting, came the steeds and chariots of flame. Friend, became the herald of Messiah’s name.

3 So Daniel trained his mystic sight, died from the lions’ might; and John, the Bride-groom’s grace, and give us joy to see thy face.

4 Then grant us, Lord, like them to be full prayer with thee; our spirits strengthened to see thy face.

5 O Father, Son, and Spirit blest, to

Words: Latin, 6th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell (1862-1947), alt.
Music: Erhalt uns, Herr, melody from Geistliche Lieder, 1543  LM
Celebrant: Dear People of God:

The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord’s passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting.

This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word.

And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now come before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept for a time, all kneeling.

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: His mercy endures for ever.

Jesus said, “The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:29-30

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

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.

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.

Pearl of Great Price

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

(silence)
The Collect of the Day

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

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.

First Lesson  Deuteronomy 26: 1-11

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

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

(silence)

Psalm  Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, *
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.
He shall say to the LORD,
"You are my refuge and my stronghold, *
my God in whom I put my trust."

Because you have made the LORD your refuge, *
and the Most High your habitation,
There shall no evil happen to you, *
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.
For he shall give his angels charge over you, *
to keep you in all your ways.
They shall bear you in their hands, *
lest you dash your foot against a stone.
You shall tread upon the lion and adder; *
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.
Because he is bound to me in love,
therefore will I deliver him; *
I will protect him, because he knows my Name.
He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; *
I am with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and bring him to honor.
With long life will I satisfy him, *
and show him my salvation.

Second Lesson Romans 10: 8b-13

"The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart"
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People: Thanks be to God.
Hymn

At the Name of Jesus
(vs. 1-4)

1 At the Name of Jesus, every knee shall bow,
2 Humbled for a season, to receive a Name,
3 bore it up triumphant, with its human light,
4 Name him, Christians, name him, with love strong as death,
5 In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subtype,
6 Christians, this Lord Jesus shall return again,

1 every tongue confess him King of glory now;
2 from the lips of sinners, unto whom he came,
3 through all ranks of creatures, to the central height,
4 name with awe and wonder and with bated breath;
5 all that is not holy, all that is not true;
6 with his Father's glory o'er the earth to reign;

1 'tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,
2 faithfully he bore it spotless to the last,
3 to the throne of God, head, to the Father's breast;
4 he is God the Saviour, he is Christ the Lord,
5 crown him as your Captain in temptation's hour;
6 for all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow,

1 who from the beginning was the mighty Word.
2 brought it back victorious, when from death he passed;
3 filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.
4 ever to be worshipped, trusted, and adored.
5 let his will enfold you in its light and power.
6 and our hearts confess him King of glory now.

Words: Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877), alt.
Music: King's Weston, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

The Gospel


Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.
After his baptism, Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written,

"Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,'

and

'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

(silence)

The Sermon

(silence)

The 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.

Prayers of the People

Leader: In this holy season let us turn to God in prayer, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the catechumens and for all the holy people of God [silence], that we may be led by the Spirit to hunger for the word of life, let us pray to the Lord.
For the peoples and nations of the world, and for those in authority [silence], that power and glory may not turn us from the way of justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For all who are afflicted and oppressed, [especially N.,] that God will open our ears to their cry, let us pray to the Lord.

For this community [silence], that we may believe in our hearts and confess with our lips the word that is near, let us pray to the Lord.

For our own needs and those of others (Jeff, Sarah, Vinny, Don, Keung, Mike, Roger, Mary, Sarah, Lia, Stefanie, Stacey, Brooke, Tom, Carol, Sarah, Merritt, Bob, Dana, Judy, John, Bob, Cathy), that God may be gracious to us in our need, let us pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Strong and faithful God, hear us as we cry to you. Stretch out your hand to save us, that we may praise you for your mercy. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

The Peace

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

The Celebration of the Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

Ingoma

Offering

Let us present our offerings to the Lord.
Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
All things come from you, and of your own we give you.

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, maker of light and darkness.
Your wisdom draws beauty from chaos, brings a harvest out of sorrow and leads the exiles home.

In Christ your Son enemies are reconciled, debts forgiven and strangers made welcome

Your Spirit frees us to live as sons and daughters in our Father's house.

We who by Christ's power follow the way of the Cross, sharing the joy of his obedience, now offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven singing the hymn of your unending glory:

The Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy

Hymn Book S 130
God of power and might, heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Holy Glory and thanksgiving be to you,  
most loving Father,  
for Christ in whom the world is reconciled.  
Lifted on the Cross,  
his suffering and forgiveness  
spanned the gulf our sins had made.  
Through that dark struggle  
death was swallowed up in victory,  
that life and light might reign.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,  
recalling the night of Israel's release,  
the night in which the sons of Egypt died,  
your Chosen One, himself the First-Born,  
freely offered his life.  
At supper with his disciples  
he took bread and offered you thanks.  
He broke the bread,  
and gave it to them, saying:  
"Take, eat.  
This is my Body: it is broken for you."  
After supper, he took the cup,  
he offered you thanks,  
and gave it to them saying:  
"Drink this, all of you.  
This is my Blood of the new covenant;  
it is poured out for you, and for all,  
that sins may be forgiven.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

We now obey your Son's command.  
We recall his blessed passion and death,  
his glorious resurrection and ascension;  
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.  
Made one with him, we offer you these gifts  
and with them ourselves,  
a single, holy, living sacrifice.
Hear us, most merciful Father, 
and send your Holy Spirit upon us 
and upon this bread and this wine, 
that, overshadowed by his life-giving power, 
they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, 
and we may be kindled with the fire of your love 
and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of 
Christ's Body 
to live and work to your praise and glory; 
may we grow together in unity and love 
until at last, in your new creation, 
we enter into our heritage 
in the company of Stephen, 
the apostles, and prophets, 
and of all our brothers and sisters 
living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, 
with whom, and in whom, 
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, 
all honour and glory be to you, 
Lord of all ages, 
world without end. 
Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

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

The Breaking of the Bread

*At the breaking of the bread, a bell will toll. Then there will be a period of silence.*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
Therefore let us keep the feast.

Anthem  

*Jesus, Lamb of God*  

_Hymnal S 164_
The Communion

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

You are welcome at this table. To receive gluten free bread or grape juice instead of wine, please inform the server at the time of communion.

Healing Prayer

Those who wish to have healing prayers are invited to join one of our priests in the Chapel after receiving communion.

Hymn

Shepherd of souls

1 Shep-herd of souls, re-fresh and bless thy cho-sen
2 We would not live by bread a-lone, but by thy
3 Be known to us in break-ing bread, and do not
4 Lord, sup with us in love di-vine, thy Bo-dy

(Music continues on the next page.)
The Postcommunion Prayer

(Stand)

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Benediction

Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements
Hymn

1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high, how passing
2 For us baptized, for us he bore his holy
3 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his
4 For us to wicked hands betrayed, scourged, mocked, in
5 For us he rose from death again; for us he
6 All glory to our Lord and God for love so

Words: Latin, 15th cent.; tr. Benjamin Webb (1819-1885), alt.
Music: Deus tuorum militum, from Antiphoner, 1753; adapt. The English Hymnal, 1906, alt. LM

The Dismissal

Celebrant: We turn our faces toward you as we go forth in the world in the name of Christ.
People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Moonlight Toccata

Celebrant: The Reverend Carole Wageman
Preacher: The Very Reverend Diane Nancekivell
Choir Director: Susanne Peck Organist: George Matthew, Jr.
Usher: Steve Snider
Welcome to St. Stephen’s!

It is our honor and pleasure to have you visiting with us today. Your presence enriches our worship. Following the service, please take a moment to sign the guest register next to the front door. After the 10:30 a.m. service there is a coffee hour for all to enjoy a cup of coffee and conversation. Current copies of the Parishscope, the parish newsletter, are available for you to take with you. For additional information, please visit our website at www.ststephensmidd.org.

We welcome children at St. Stephen’s!

- **Child care** is provided in the Ark upstairs from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. with one of our wonderful caregivers Suzie Klemmer and Ashley Mayo.

- **Children’s “quiet bags”** are available on the hooks at the back of the church.

- **The Chapel** at the back of the church is sound equipped for parents who wish a quieter environment for their children.

All who are seeking a deeper relationship with Christ are invited to share in the communion. At the proper time the ushers will direct you to the altar to receive communion. If you desire to receive a blessing rather than communion simply cross your arms across your chest. To receive gluten free bread or grape juice instead of wine, please inform the server at the time of communion.

Healing Prayer in Chapel: After receiving communion if you would like healing prayers for yourself or a loved one, you are welcome to proceed to the Chapel where one of our priests will pray with you.

If you have any **questions**, please ask any Vestry member – their nametags are marked.

There is an **elevator** in the reception area opposite the Parish Administrator’s Office. Take the door next to the Baptismal Font. A wheelchair and personal amplification devices are available for those who need them. See an usher for assistance. There are restrooms on all three floors.

Whenever a prayer or response is in **bold** you are encouraged to read this aloud.

In the Episcopal Church we commonly stand for prayers or hymns- you may sit if you prefer.