

St. Martin's Episcopal Church  
Bridgewater, New Jersey



February 11, 2024  
The Last Sunday after the Epiphany  
Transfiguration Sunday and Farewell to the Alleluia

**Opening Hymn: *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus vv.1,3,4***

***Blue Hymnal, 460***

Priest: + Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

*All: And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and forever. Amen*

By the mercies of God, let us confess our sins and present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to him, which is our spiritual worship.

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit: Lord, have mercy.

*Lord, have mercy.*

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart: Christ, have mercy.

*Christ, have mercy.*

You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided: Lord, have mercy.

*Lord, have mercy.*

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.

**Hymn of Praise: *Gloria in excelsis***

***K. Shanklin***

The image shows a musical score for three soprano voices. The first staff is for Soprano, the second for Soprano 2 (labeled 'S'), and the third for Soprano 3 (labeled 'S'). The music is in 12/8 time and G major. The lyrics are: 'Glo-ry to God in the high-est Glo-ry to God, in the high-est, Glo-ry to God, in the high-est And peace on earth to all.' The score includes various musical notations such as treble clefs, key signatures, time signatures, and lyrics under the notes.

**Collect of the Day**

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Set us free, heavenly Father, from every bond of prejudice and fear: that, honoring the steadfast courage of your servant Absalom Jones, we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of the children of God, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### **A Reading from 2 Kings**

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

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

**Psalm 50:1-6    *Deus deorum***

***Antiphon: Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God reveals himself in glory***

The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken;  
He has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.  
Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God reveals himself in glory. **(Ant)**

Our God will come and will not keep silence; before him there is a consuming flame,  
and round about him a raging storm.  
He calls the heavens and the earth from above to witness the judgment of his people. **(Ant)**

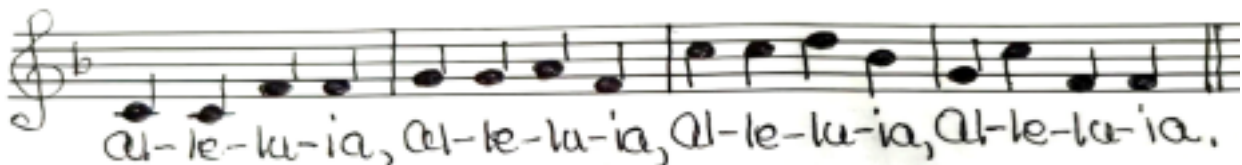
"Gather before me my loyal followers,  
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice."  
Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; for God himself is judge. **(Ant)**

**A Reading from 2 Corinthians**

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. The Word of the Lord/ *Thanks be to God*

**Gospel Acclamation**

**K. Shanklin**



**V:** *A great prophet has arisen in our midst. God has visited his people*

## The Holy Gospel

The Holy Gospel of our + Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. The Gospel of the Lord

**The Homily**  
**The Nicene Creed**

**Father Robert Laws**  
**BCP, 358**

**The Prayers of the People Form III**  
**The Peace and The Offertory Sentence**  
**Announcements**

**BCP, 387**

**The Offertory Hymn *Lift Every Voice and Sing***

***Blue Hymnal, 599***

**The Liturgy of the Altar**

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff is for the Celebrant and the People, the second for the Celebrant and the People, the third for the Celebrant, and the fourth for the People. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.", "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.", "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.", and "It is right to give him thanks and praise."

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant*  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*  
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
 God of pow-er and might, Heav-en and earth are  
 full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.  
 Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Eucharistic Prayer continues in the Book of Common Prayer, page 368*

**The Lord's Prayer**

**BCP, 364**

**The Fraction and Lamb of God**

Lamb of God \_\_\_\_\_ you take a-way the sins of the

world: have mer-cy on us. Lamb of

God \_\_\_\_\_ you take a-way the sins of the world:

have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God \_\_\_\_\_ you

take a-way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

**Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.  
Happy are they who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.**

*The people may silently pray: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and my soul shall be healed.*

### **The Holy Communion Communion Hymns**

*Sing Alleluia Forth in Duteous Praise*

**WLP, 777**

1. Sing al - le - lu - ia forth in du - teous praise,  
 2. Ye pow'rs who stand be - fore the e - ter - nal Light,  
 3. Then let the ho - ly ci - ty raise the strain,  
 4. Ye who have fought and joined the star - ry throng,

ye ci - ti - zens of heav'n, O sweet - ly raise an end - less  
 let all your choirs re - ech - o to the height an end - less  
 and with glad songs re - sound - ing wake a - gain an end - less  
 ye vic - tors, now take up the e - ter - nal song, an end - less

al - le - lu - ia.

5. Your songs of triumph shall forever ring,  
 the hymns which tell the honor of your King,  
 an endless alleluia.

6. Such song is rest and food and deep delight  
 to saints forgiven; let them all unite  
 in endless alleluia.

7. Almighty Christ, to thee our voices sing  
 all laud forevermore; to thee we bring  
 an endless alleluia.

*Christ Upon the Mountain Peak*

*Blue Hymnal, 129*

**Post Communion Prayer (*Please kneel or stand*)  
 Blessing**

*BCP, 365*



### **Farewell to the Alleluia**

Priest: We are an Easter People. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: And Alleluia is our song. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Priest: The author of Ecclesiastes writes:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted. A time to break down and a time to build up. A time to weep and a time to laugh. A time to mourn and a time to dance. A time to keep silence and a time to speak. As a sign of our repentance, we now say Farewell to the Alleluia until our rejoicing at the resurrection of our Lord when we shout Alleluias at the Great Easter Vigil.

### **Dismissal**

**Closing Hymn: *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones***

***Hymnal 1982, 618***

### **Serving Today**

Thurifer: Fausto Beleno Crucifer: Natalie Kellam

Lector: Marilyn O'Regan Eucharistic Minister: Yvonne Comeau

Ushers: Paul Toddoroff, Carl Picazio

Choir: Beth Hixenbaugh, Alison Jandak, Jane Maloney, Rob Vernon

Organist: Kathy Shanklin Celebrant: Father Rob Laws+

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Wednesday, February 14, 5 PM Ash Wednesday Mass**

**Mondays in Lent, beginning February 19 at Juanita Hawkins Home.**

We will gather at 6:30pm to pray St. Anthony's Rosary for healing.

The study will begin at 7:00 pm.

The first reading will be the story of Noah and the Flood.

Please read Genesis 6 and Genesis 7 in advance of the class.

**Stations of the Cross, Fridays in Lent at 6:00 pm, beginning February 16**

### **Confirmation Classes to Begin during Lent**

Youth and adults who would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, or adults who were Confirmed in another church with apostolic succession and would like to be received into the Episcopal Church by the bishop, should register to attend these classes. Registration forms and more information may be found in the narthex and on the parish website.

**Please check the weekly email newsletter for more information about upcoming activities and events. If you are not receiving the newsletter, please send an email to the parish office and they will help you sign up.**

**Prayer Intentions for this Mass**

Elaina, Adam, Brent, Anna Rose, Ryan and his family, Celeste, Joe, Paige, Maureen, Bozeno, Helios, Sonia, Bob, Julia, Anna, Nicole, Dusty, Nory, Anthony, Jeff, Debbie, Ian, Pat, Dillon, Mary, Evelyn, Michael, and Leona

## **A Note about Ash Wednesday**

The season of Lent is a time of repentance and renewal. Our repentance and growth is aided by spiritual practices which help us examine our lives and conduct and reflect on how to live more fully in love. These spiritual practices include sacramental confession, fasting, abstinence and setting aside more time in our daily lives for prayer, spiritual reading, and good works.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting and prayer, in which the Church calls us to turn away from our sins and to turn back to God, who is full of grace and mercy, and longs to help us dwell in love.

If it is at all possible, unless you are prevented by a health issue, it is highly encouraged that you fast on Ash Wednesday. Fasting does not mean eating no food. It means eating two small meatless meals, and one normal sized meatless meal. (Fasting meat is not only beneficial for your own spiritual well being, it is good for the environment and it calls to our minds the poor who live with food scarcity. It is a reminder for us to pray for the poor and to feed the hungry).

This year Ash Wednesday falls on St. Valentine's Day. Many will choose to celebrate the gift of love that they share with their spouse, family, and friends. Celebrating love is always noble and honorable: I would only suggest that you also make the spirit of the day by taking time to intentionally turn to God and reflect on the gift of repentance. Perhaps you would consider celebrating Valentine's Day on the evening of February 13.

Regardless of what choices you make, I pray that you will all have a holy and transforming Lent. I am always here for spiritual direction and counsel or to hear your confession and to offer you the grace of absolution.

May God bless you, fill with his grace, and bring you to those eternal Easter joys. Amen