

# St. John's Episcopal Church

**The Fourth Sunday in Lent**

March 6, 2016



*Proclaiming the Gospel, promoting justice, and preparing a diverse  
community of seekers to reflect the welcoming love of Christ.*

701 Engineer Street, Corbin, KY 40701

606-528-1659

[priest-in-charge@stjohnscorbin.org](mailto:priest-in-charge@stjohnscorbin.org)

## **A Note on Today's Readings**

### *The Fourth Sunday in Lent—Year C*

This Fourth Sunday in Lent has often been called “Refreshment Sunday.” It always includes the theme of eating and drinking as signs of God’s love and of the rejoicing of God’s people in the Eucharist and in God’s kingdom.

In the reading from the Hebrew Scriptures, we hear about the first Passover celebrated by the Israelites in the Promised Land. On that occasion, the manna, which sustained them in their wilderness journey, ceased and they lived on the “fruit of the land.” God’s people, washed and adopted in baptism and sustained in this world by Holy Communion, will likewise enter into God’s Kingdom and be nourished by God’s life.

In the second reading, we learn from Paul that not only has Christ reconciled us to God, but in baptism God makes us agents of reconciliation to the world. and we become the new creation of the Kingdom of God.

Thus, in today’s gospel reading of the story of the Prodigal Son, the culmination of forgiveness is reconciliation celebrated in a banquet and feast. This parable describes the totality of forgiveness and God’s eagerness to be reconciled with us rebellious children, which is fulfilled in our celebration of Holy Eucharist and, above all, in our Easter rejoicing.

This sacred meal is the sign of our return to God, of God’s unlimited forgiveness, and of the feasting of God with all the redeemed in the Kingdom. In our Lenten self-denial, we are reminded that our pilgrimage in this life is like Israel’s journey through the wilderness, and that our ultimate goal is the Promised Land of God’s Kingdom, foreshadowed in the Holy Eucharist.

# Morning Prayer

**The Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Sunday, March 06, 2016

*O Spirit of the living God*

Hymnal 531

*The Officiant says*

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*

## **Confession of Sin**

*All kneel.*

*The Officiant then says*

Dear friends in Christ, here in the presence of Almighty God, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, so that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Officiant and People*

God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

## **Invitatory and Psalter**

*All stand.*

*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.

**Psalm 95:1-7**    *Venite*

Sung to *Truro*

1. O come and sing unto the Lord  
And in his saving strength rejoice,  
Come now before him giving thanks  
And raise glad psalms with every voice.
2. The Lord is great, above all gods;  
The earth, the hills are in his hand;  
The sea is his and he made it,  
His hands prepared all the dry land.
3. Come, let us worship and fall down  
And kneel before our Maker's throne;  
We are the people of his field,  
The sheep whom he has made his own.
4. O let the whole earth stand in awe  
Of God arrayed in holiness;  
He cometh yet to judge the world,  
To judge with truth and righteousness.
5. All glory to the Father, Son,  
And to the Holy Spirit be;  
As from the first it was, is now,  
And will be for eternity.

*The people are seated*

**Psalm 32**

Sung to *Maryton*

*Beati quorum*

1. How happy those whose sins are purged,  
Whose misdeeds all are put away!  
To whom the Lord imputes no guilt,  
And in whose life no guile holds sway!

2. I held my tongue, my bones were dry,  
I groaned all day and could not eat;  
Your hand weighed on me day and night;  
I gasped as in the summer heat.

3. Then I acknowledged all my sin  
And did not hide my guilt from you;  
I said, "I will confess my faults,"  
And you forgave my sin anew.

4. Therefore the faithful pray to you;  
They shall be safe though floods abound.  
You keep me safe, my hiding place,  
With shouts of freedom wall me 'round.

5. "I will instruct you in the way,  
Watch over you and hold you dear;  
Do not be like the horse and mule,  
Which need strong reins to keep them near."

6. Mercy surrounds God's faithful ones;  
The wicked's lot is suffering;  
Be glad you righteous and rejoice,  
Let all God's faithful people sing.

7. All glory to the Father, Son,  
And to the Holy Spirit be;  
As from the first it was, is now,  
And will be for eternity.

## Readings

*A period of silence will follow each reading.*

### First Reading

Joshua 5:9-12

*The people remain seated.*

A Reading from the book of Joshua.

The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

*Reader*                      The Word of the Lord.

*People*                        Thanks be to God.

*The King of love my shepherd is*

Hymnal 645

### Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

*The people are seated.*

A Reading from Paul’s Second letter to the Church in Corinth.

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of

Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

All stand.

*Softly and tenderly*

LEVAS 101

1. Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing,  
2. Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing,  
3. Time is now fleet - ing, the mo - ments are pass - ing,  
4. Oh! For the won - der - ful love He has prom - ised,

1. Call - ing for you and for me; — See, on the por - tals He's  
2. Plead - ing for you and for me? — Why should we lin - ger and  
3. Pass - ing for you and for me; — Shad - ows are gath - er - ing,  
4. Prom - ised for you and for me; — Though we have sinned, He has

1. wait - ing and watch - ing, Watch - ing for you and for me. —  
2. heed not His mer - cies, Mer - cies for you and for me? —  
3. death beds are com - ing, Com - ing for you and for me. —  
4. mer - cy and par - don, Par - don for you and for me. —

Come home, Come home, come home, come home,

Ye who are wea-ry, come home! Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, Call - ing, O sin - ner, come home!

## Gospel Reading

Luke 15:1-3,11b-32

*Please be seated.*

A Reading from Luke.

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a

severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up 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; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

*Reader*                      The Word of the Lord.

*People*                        Thanks be to God.

*All stand.*

**Canticle 10**  
**The Second Song of Isaiah**  
***Quaerite Dominum***

Sung to *Erhalt uns, herr*

1. Seek God while he wills to be found,  
When he draws near you, make your plea;  
Let evil ones forsake their ways,  
The wicked their iniquity.
2. Let all of them turn to our God  
And come again to serve the Lord;  
For his compassion will be shown,  
His mercy richly be outpoured.
3. Your thoughts and ways are not like mine,  
Says God, nor can they ever be;  
My thoughts rise over yours as heaven  
Soars far above the earth and sea.
4. For as the earth is watered well  
When heaven sends down rain and snow,  
To bring forth life and give it growth,  
Both bread to eat and seed to sow,
5. So, too, my word when it goes forth  
Will not return empty to me;  
It will accomplish all my will  
And prosper in it mightily.
6. All glory to the Father, Son,  
And to the Holy Spirit be,  
As from the first it was, is now,  
And will be for eternity.

**Homily**

Bruce W. Cory

**Announcements**

*Announcements may be made at this point in the service.*

## **Apostles' Creed**

*All stand.*

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and 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.

## **Prayers**

*The people stand or kneel.*

*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 Officiant and People say responsively*

V. Help us, O God our Savior;  
R. Deliver us and forgive us our sins.  
V. Look upon your congregation;  
R. Give to your people the blessing of peace.  
V. Declare your glory among the nations;  
R. And your wonders among all peoples.  
V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;  
R. Never forget the lives of your poor.  
V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;  
R. And your favor to those who are true of heart.  
V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;  
R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

*Collect of the Day*

*The Officiant then says*

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.*

*A Collect for Sundays*

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.*

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **Office Hymn**

*Sing, my soul, his wondrous love*

Hymnal 467

### **Prayers of the People**

*All remain standing.*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy”.

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, for Doug, our own Bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those in positions of public trust, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For all who live and work in this community, we pray to you, O Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For this congregation, for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For our enemies and those who wish us harm; and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For Marlynn, Sue, Michael, Shelia, June, Jerry, Barbara, Silvestre, and Grace Church, Florence, the Rev. J. Joseph Pennington, interim priest-in-charge, we pray to you, O Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Joseph, her spouse, St. John and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God. *To you, O Lord our God.*

*Silence*

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*The General Thanksgiving*

*Officiant and People*

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.*

*Guide me, O thou great Jehovah*

Hymnal 690

Let us bless the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

*Officiant*

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

## News & Notes

**Pastoral Needs:** If a pastoral need arises, please call the church office at 606-528-1659 and leave a message. Voicemail messages will automatically be forwarded to a member of the vestry who can arrange pastoral care.

**Next Sunday** will be a service of Morning prayer.

**Adult Forum:** We continue our study of the Gospel of Mark each Sunday morning at 10:15 am.

**Godly Play** is available at 10am each Sunday to support the spiritual guidance for all children.

**Al-Anon Family Group:** An Al-Anon Family Group will meet in St. John's Parish Hall on Tuesdays from 7-8pm.

**Wednesday Fellowship:** Gather at 6pm on Wednesday evenings for a service and fellowship.

**Lenten Meditation:** Booklets from the Episcopal Relief and Development organization outlining a series of Lenten meditations are available in the Parish Hall.

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### **St. John's Statement of Inclusion**

*St. John's Episcopal Church, Corbin, KY, is a proudly inclusive Christian community. All members are encouraged to participate fully in the life and leadership of the church regardless of age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical or mental ability. We believe all people are created by God to model the diversity in unity which is the Holy Trinity and we seek to live out that diversity in unity within the faith community.*