

ST. GEORGE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



LENT

*Lenten Worship Booklet
Morning Prayer, Rite II
9:30 a.m.*

*Welcome to St. George's!
We are blessed by your attendance at our worship today.*

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Welcome to St. George's

Whether you are here for the first time or the thousandth time, we are glad you have chosen to join us for worship today. As each and every person gathers here to worship God, we all are strengthened and able to offer a fuller worship than we can apart. We are blessed by your presence.

About the Service: This bulletin is designed to help make it easier for you to more fully participate in worship and better understand the meaning behind the order of our service. Included are some notes to help explain the different sections of our liturgical service; as well as why we do certain things. We are all beginners in the liturgy, really. All of us—from the first-time visitor who is wondering what is happening, to the long-time Episcopalian or seminary-trained priest who know much of the service by heart. Even so, we are only just beginning to learn of worship if the great seraphim cover their faces in the presence of the Divine and Majestic God, continually worshiping Him saying: *Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.* (Isaiah 6:2)

Church Seasons: we are in the season of **Lent**, which is a period of 40 days representing Christ's forty days of testing in the wilderness. Lent is a season in which we remember the mighty acts of God in history, on the covenant realized between God and his people, and on the role of Jesus in the story of salvation. Lent has been called a time of teaching both those to be baptized or confirmed and the whole church. It is a penitential season of repenting and reflection of those ways of life which have distracted or ensnared us, keeping us from being reconciled to God and our fellow human beings. Through being intentional in several spiritual practices, such as prayer, fasting, reading of scripture, or focusing on practicing a certain virtue like "gratitude" for the 40 days of Lent, we open ourselves up to receive more of God's grace. Whatever we do it is meant to redirect our lives toward God who seeks to be reconciled with us for He is full of graciousness, mercy, kindness and steadfast love. God sent His Only Son that we might be reconciled to Him.

We Invite You to Come again: Many have found that coming at least four times will help you get a true feel for whether or not St. Georges might be a place you wish to call home.

You can watch our Morning and Noonday Prayers on our
Facebook Page: St Georges Texas City
Youtube Channel: St. George's Texas City
Website: www.stgeorgestc.org under the Worship Tab

Morning Prayer: Rite II

Prelude

The Word of God

Opening Sentences

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 76

The Celebrant says

If we say 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. *I John 1:8, 9*

Confession of Sin

BCP 79

The officiant says to the people

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept

Officiant and People 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.

The priest says

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.**

The Invitatory and Psalter

BCP 80

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

The Psalm or Psalms Appointed

Psalm 23

1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

At the end of the psalms is sung or said

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

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

John 11:1-48 The Message (MSG)

The Death of Lazarus

A man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. This was the same Mary who massaged the Lord's feet with aromatic oils and then wiped them with her hair. It was her brother Lazarus who was sick. So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Master, the one you love so very much is sick."

When Jesus got the message, he said, "This sickness is not fatal. It will become an occasion to show God's glory by glorifying God's Son."

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, but oddly, when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed on where he was for two more days. After the two days, he said to his disciples, "Let's go back to Judea."

They said, "Rabbi, you can't do that. The Jews are out to kill you, and you're going back?"

Jesus replied, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in daylight doesn't stumble because there's plenty of light from the sun. Walking at night, he might very well stumble because he can't see where he's going."

He said these things, and then announced, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep. I'm going to wake him up."

The disciples said, "Master, if he's gone to sleep, he'll get a good rest and wake up feeling fine." Jesus was talking about death, while his disciples thought he was talking about taking a nap.

Then Jesus became explicit: "Lazarus died. And I am glad for your sakes that I wasn't there. You're about to be given new grounds for believing. Now let's go to him."

That's when Thomas, the one called the Twin, said to his companions, "Come along. We might as well die with him."

When Jesus finally got there, he found Lazarus already four days dead. Bethany was near Jerusalem, only a couple of miles away, and many of the Jews were visiting Martha and Mary, sympathizing with them over their brother. Martha heard Jesus was coming and went out to meet him. Mary remained in the house.

Martha said, "Master, if you'd been here, my brother wouldn't have died. Even now, I know that whatever you ask God he will give you."

Jesus said, “Your brother will be raised up.”

Martha replied, “I know that he will be raised up in the resurrection at the end of time.”

“You don’t have to wait for the End. I am, right now, Resurrection and Life. The one who believes in me, even though he or she dies, will live. And everyone who lives believing in me does not ultimately die at all. Do you believe this?”

“Yes, Master. All along I have believed that you are the Messiah, the Son of God who comes into the world.”

After saying this, she went to her sister Mary and whispered in her ear, “The Teacher is here and is asking for you.”

The moment she heard that, she jumped up and ran out to him. Jesus had not yet entered the town but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When her sympathizing Jewish friends saw Mary run off, they followed her, thinking she was on her way to the tomb to weep there. Mary came to where Jesus was waiting and fell at his feet, saying, “Master, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

When Jesus saw her sobbing and the Jews with her sobbing, a deep anger welled up within him. He said, “Where did you put him?”

“Master, come and see,” they said. Now Jesus wept.

The Jews said, “Look how deeply he loved him.”

Others among them said, “Well, if he loved him so much, why didn’t he do something to keep him from dying? After all, he opened the eyes of a blind man.”

Then Jesus, the anger again welling up within him, arrived at the tomb. It was a simple cave in the hillside with a slab of stone laid against it. Jesus said, “Remove the stone.”

The sister of the dead man, Martha, said, “Master, by this time there’s a stench. He’s been dead four days!”

Jesus looked her in the eye. “Didn’t I tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”

Then, to the others, “Go ahead, take away the stone.”

They removed the stone. Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and prayed, “Father, I’m grateful that you have listened to me. I know you always do listen, but on account of this crowd standing here I’ve spoken so that they might believe that you sent me.”

Then he shouted, “Lazarus, come out!” And he came out, a cadaver, wrapped from head to toe, and with a kerchief over his face.

Jesus told them, “Unwrap him and let him loose.”

The Man Who Creates God-Signs

That was a turnaround for many of the Jews who were with Mary. They saw what Jesus did, and believed in him. But some went back to the Pharisees and told on Jesus. The high priests and Pharisees called a meeting of the Jewish ruling body. “What do we do now?” they asked. “This man keeps on doing things, creating God-signs. If we let him go on, pretty soon everyone will be believing in him and the Romans will come and remove what little power and privilege we still have.”

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Homily

The Prayers

BCP 97

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, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Other Collects and Prayers

BCP 99-100

The General Thanksgiving

BCP 101

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.***

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

BCP 102

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.*

Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Dismissal and Closing Sentence

BCP 102

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.* *Romans 15:13*