

HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Of Hayward and Castro Valley

*You've got questions... We've got questions!
Let's go on a journey together...*



Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year A

RECTOR: The Rev. Mark Spaulding, Email: mark@holycrosscv.org
In case of pastoral emergency please contact a priest at (510) 889-7233
ASSOCIATE RECTOR: The Rev. Martha Kuhlmann
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE: The Rev. Pamela Cranston
DEACON: The Rev. Deacon Patricia Pearson
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Ray Hickman
RECTOR'S WARDEN: Diane Granlund PEOPLE'S WARDEN: Janet Williams
NURSERY: Eli Spaulding & Caitlyn White
BOOKKEEPERS: Diane Granlund & Pat Oakman
OFFICE MANAGER: Bonnie Pikul, office hours: 9:30 am - 2:30 pm, Mon. – Fri

*If you are more than one, take turns reading the parts in regular type,
and everyone present may say the parts in bold.
If you are doing this by yourself, read all the parts,
imagining other voices joining you in the responses and sections in bold.*

*Find a quiet place and a comfortable position.
Feel free to follow the promptings of your body and heart regarding standing and sitting.
(You might feel drawn to stand for the Affirmation of Faith for example.)*

Morning Prayer

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. *Hebrews 4:14, 16*

THE CONFESSION

**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 ABSOLUTION

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us 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.

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

God, open our lips: **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

God is full of compassion and mercy: **Come let us adore our Creator.**

The Word of God

EZEKIEL 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 130

**Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice; *
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.**

**If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, *
O Lord, who could stand?**

**For there is forgiveness with you; *
therefore you shall be feared.**

**I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; *
in his word is my hope.**

**My soul waits for the Lord,
more than watchmen for the morning, *
more than watchmen for the morning.**

**O Israel, wait for the Lord, *
for with the Lord there is mercy;**

**With him there is plenteous redemption, *
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

ROMANS 8:6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

JOHN 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial.

You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

The Gospel of our Savior.
Thanks be to God.

THE HOMILY: THE REV. MARK SPAULDING

<https://holycrosscv.org/Homily03-29.mp3>

(A link of the recording of the Gospel Reading and Sermon.)

CREED WRITTEN BY THE PEOPLE OF HOLY CROSS AT OUR FALL LENTEN SERIES

**We believe in God,
Creator of all that is.**

**We believe in Jesus our savior,
who was miraculously conceived through God
and made in human form.
He willingly entered into suffering with us.
He destroyed death and ascended into heaven.
His kingdom has no end.**

**We believe in the Breath of God,
the giver of life, who is also worshipped and glorified,
and who has spoken, and continues to speak, to God’s people.**

**We believe in one, holy, universal church.
We claim God’s love and forgiveness in baptism.
We believe in the resurrection and restoration of all God’s creation.**

Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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 forever. Amen.**

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.**

A COLLECT FOR GUIDANCE

Holy and loving God, 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 Savior. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, in this period of reflection and self-examination, we acknowledge the brokenness of our world, our organizations and ourselves.

We pray for the brokenness of your church, often reflecting human desires and prejudices rather than your mandate to build the kingdom that Christ intended.
Be not far away, O God: you are my strength; hasten to help me.

We pray for the brokenness of our civil structures that far too often fail to provide the fairness and justice that should be their intent.
Be not far away, O God: you are my strength; hasten to help me.

We pray for the brokenness of the natural world we have defiled; a place you created as good that has been exploited with scant regard for those to come.
Be not far away, O God: you are my strength; hasten to help me.

We pray for the brokenness of the human condition that so regularly ignores the call to treat others as we would be treated.
Be not far away, O God: you are my strength; hasten to help me.

We pray for the brokenness that creates injustice, suffering and despair in pursuit of greed and power.

Be not far away, O God: you are my strength; hasten to help me.

We pray for the brokenness caused by sickness, loss and death and ask that we may be your agents of peace and healing in the world.

Be not far away, O God: you are my strength; hasten to help me.

We give thanks for those who have, despite brokenness, lived lives of faithfulness and witness and are now residing in your presence.

Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of God forever.

Fill us with holy anger to do what we can to heal this broken world. **Amen.**

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, Source 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 Savior 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 ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Savior, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. **Amen.**

Let us bless our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING PRAYER

The grace of our Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the friendship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** *2 Corinthians 13:14*