

Ante Communion Service --- Lent 2B --- February 28, 2021

Hymn

Crown Him with Many Crowns

King's College Choir

*Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own:
awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.*

*Crown him the Virgin's Son, the God incarnate born,
whose arm those crimson trophies won which now his brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic Rose, as of that Rose the Stem;
the Root, whence mercy ever flows, the Babe of Bethlehem.*

*Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
those wounds, yet visible above in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.*

*Crown him the Lord of peace, whose pow'r a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise:
his reign shall know no end, and round his piercèd feet
fair flow'rs of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.*

*Crown him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, and whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

God of mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God, have mercy on us. 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.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our holy house, and for all who offer their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Kyrie: Deutsche Messe, Franz Schubert; adapt. Richard Proulx
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy

St. Patrick's Cathedral

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:22-30

Deus, Deus meus

Praise the Lord, you that fear him; *

stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does he hide his face from them; *
but when they cry to him he hears them.

My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *

"May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the Lord; *

he rules over the nations.

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *

all who go down to the dust fall before him.

My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and every shall be. World without end. Amen.

Second Reading Romans 4:13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore, his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness."

Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also.

It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Mark 8:31-38

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?"

Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny

themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?"

Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Hymn

Take Up your Cross

The Orchard Enterprises

Take up your cross, the Savior said, if you would my disciple be;
Deny yourself, the world forsake, and humbly follow after me.

Take up your cross, be not ashamed! Let not disgrace your spirit fill!
For God himself endured to die, upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.

Take up your cross, and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down;
For only they who bear the cross, may hope to wear the glorious crown.

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

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.**

Celebrant With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church,
those in need, and all of God's creation. In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For this community, the nation, and the world; **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the peace and unity of the world; **That a spirit of respect may grow among nations and peoples.**

For the just and proper use of your creation; **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all bishops and other ministers; **For all who serve God in his Church.**

For all who love and trust in God, that divisions may cease;
And that all may be one, as you and the Father are one.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For wisdom in this time of pandemic; **That our actions may protect the health of ourselves and others.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord; **For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. *Silence.*

We will exalt you, O God our King; **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence. Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them.

May they be filled with your love.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray together:

**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.**

We pray together for Christ's presence:

**My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the bread and wine.
I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you.
Amen.**

Celebrant: While we long to receive the sacrament of Christ's Body,

People: **We become the sacrament of Christ's Body.**

Celebrant: Let your lives be manna to feed our hunger for communion.

People: **The love we share becomes bread for the world.**

Blessing

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness
and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever
in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Wash Nat'l Cathedral

*There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice, which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good;
there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.*

*There is no place where earth's sorrows, are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings, have such kindly judgment given.
There is plentiful redemption, in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members, in the sorrows of the Head.*

*For the love of God is broader, than the measure of the mind;
and the heart of the Eternal, is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we should take him at his word;
and our life would be thanksgiving, for the goodness of the Lord.*

Dismissal