

# The Fifth SUNDAY of LENT

21 March 2021

**Grace Episcopal Church**

827 Church Street  
Honesdale, PA

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**The Fourth Sunday in Lent, 2021**  
*Virtual Grace*

Organ Prelude - excerpt of the “*Kyrie*” from Missa Sollenelle

Louis Vierne

*ANNOUNCEMENTS*

Hello and welcome to “Virtual Grace”  
from Grace Episcopal Church in Honesdale, PA.  
I’m Fr. Ed, the rector of our parish, and we’re glad you’re here in “Virtual Grace,”  
as we continue to offer these services.  
I am thrilled to announce that as of next week, Palm Sunday  
we are able to open our doors again for in-person worship.  
In order to hold numbers at a minimum, we are adding a 3<sup>rd</sup> service on Sunday:  
8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 as well as our Saturday 5:00 service.

We are grateful to the ladies of the parish who have once again,  
provided us with home-made Easter candies.  
We are deeply grateful for all the help, donations, best wishes and prayers  
that have been offered to the Church.  
And call me if you, or anyone you know, are in any pastoral need at all.

This is the Fifth Sunday in Lent.  
Walking with Jesus in these forty days, even in our own wilderness,  
in this continued pandemic experience,  
we are constantly are reminded of the 525,000 Americans,  
and others around the world who have succumbed to the virus,  
those who have lost jobs and those who face eviction.

Eternal Lord of love, behold your Church  
walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,  
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
moved by your love and toward your presence bent:  
far off yet here— the goal of all desire.

So daily dying to the way of self,  
so daily living to your way of love,  
we walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,  
knowing ourselves baptized into your death:  
so we are dead and live with you in God.

*Thomas Cain, Hymn # 149*

Let us prepare ourselves for hearing God's Word and offering our prayers.

Hear the commandments of God to his people.

After each Commandment, repeat with me: *Amen. Have mercy, O God.*

God said, I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.

You shall have no other gods but me.

*Amen. Have mercy, O God.*

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

*Amen. Have mercy, O God.*

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

*Amen. Have mercy, O God.*

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

*Amen. Have mercy, O God.*

Honor your father and your mother.

*Amen. Have mercy, O God.*

You shall not commit murder.

*Amen. Have mercy, O God.*

You shall not commit adultery.

*Amen. Have mercy, O God.*

You shall not steal.

*Amen. Have mercy, O God.*

You shall not be a false witness.

*Amen. Have mercy, O God.*

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

*Amen. Have mercy, O God.*

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.

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

Let us pray:

The COLLECT of the DAY (Lent 5)

BCP p. 219

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.*

FIRST READING

*Jeremiah 31: 31-34*

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt-- a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Here ends the Reading.

GRADUAL

Psalm 119: 9-16

BCP p. 764

9 How shall a young man cleanse his way? \*

By keeping to your words.

10 With my whole heart I seek you; \*

let me not stray from your commandments.

- 11 I treasure your promise in my heart, \*  
that I may not sin against you.
- 12 Blessed are you, O Lord; \*  
instruct me in your statutes.
- 13 With my lips will I recite \*  
all the judgments of your mouth.
- 14 I have taken greater delight in the way of your decrees \*  
than in all manner of riches.
- 15 I will meditate on your commandments \*  
and give attention to your ways.
- 16 My delight is in your statutes; \*  
I will not forget your word.

SECOND READING

*John 12: 20-33*

✚ Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say-- 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Here ends the Reading.

## MEDITATION

Humpty Dumpty took the book and looked at it carefully.  
“That seems to be done right” - he began.  
“You’re holding it upside down!” Alice interrupted.  
“To be sure I was!” Humpty Dumpty said gaily,  
    as she turned it round for him.  
“I thought it looked a little queer.  
As I was saying, that *seems* to be done right -  
    though I haven’t time to look it over thoroughly just now -  
    and that shows you  
        that there are three hundred and sixty-four days  
            when you might get un-birthday presents -”  
“Certainly,” said Alice.  
“And only *one* for birthday presents, you know.  
    There’s glory for you!”  
“I don’t know what you mean by ‘glory,’” Alice said.  
Humpty Dumpty smiled contemptuously.  
    “Of course you don’t – ’til I tell you.”

So goes the discourse in *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*.  
The problem with adults, we think children’s books are for children!  
But we must remember that Lewis Carroll was a clergy-man,  
    and preaching is imbedded in his writing.  
And secondly, we must consider that Humpty is not as silly  
    as he’s cracked up to be!  
Carroll was finely in tune with both St. Paul in his understanding  
    of the foolishness of humans and the wisdom of God,  
    and in tune with St. John in his description of ‘glory.’

Let’s return to the wall:

“I don’t know what you mean by ‘glory,’” Alice said...

“I meant ‘there’s a nice knock-down argument for you!”  
“But ‘glory’ doesn’t mean ‘a nice knock-down argument,”  
Alice objected.

“When *I* use a word,” Humpty Dumpty said, in a rather scornful tone,  
“it means just what I choose it to mean - neither more nor less.”

Lewis Carroll: *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*

In today’s Gospel, John overturns our tables again,  
giving us a cracked egg understanding of ‘glory’  
so that we might see Jesus as He truly is.

In fact, maybe Humpty Dumpty has something in what he thinks of ‘glory’ -  
a nice knock-down of what we expect Jesus and God to be and do.

Now two weeks before Easter, I know what glory is -  
eating chocolate eggs the ladies have made.

But to God, glory is not Easter joy.

God’s glory does not come until Pentecost.

Next week, we will remember Jesus entering the Holy City on a donkey.  
not a royal Roman shining horse

At the Ascension, the Apostles now expect Jesus to overturn the Romans.

And he says, “No,” and rises to Heaven, leaving them dumbfounded.

As I said earlier, God is still not glorified, that comes at Pentecost,

when the Spirit of holiness descends upon all the disciples of Christ.

But even then, God is not yet glorified.

God is only glorified by what we do.

On Holy Thursday, Jesus will say, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified,  
and God has been glorified in him.”

And not just in Jesus.



God can be glorified in and by us.

That same night, we will hear of the Great Commandment,

the *mandatum* or mandate where get the name Maundy Thursday.

“This is my commandment that you love one another,”

as he kneels down on the cold floor, takes a towel, and serves others  
by the humility of washing feet.

These days, especially these days,

how will you glorify God?

How will God be glorified in you?

How will God glorify you?

Do you feel that God has glorified you?

Don't you feel that God's glory -

the nice knock-down argument -

is deep within you -

to make right the Book for others,

to over-turn the injustices in these days,

to crack a few shells?

Or at the end of the story to put all of Humpty Dumpty back together again.

Glorify God -

and as the arch over our parish hall doors say,

“Whatsoever ye do, do so to the glory of God.”

Whatsoever, *everything* you do,

do to the glory of God.

Amen.

Let us proclaim our faith in the words of our Baptismal Creed.

## **The 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.

PRAYERS, Form II, modified

BCP p. 385

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael our Presiding Bishop and Kevin our Bishop; for our parish family, especially those we remember this week: Maggie & Nick, Peggy & Rob, Hannah, Chris and Robert, Dolores, Dianne & Bob, Jordan, Kyle and Jared, Angie & Neil, Ashlea and Jaymes; and for all God's people. Pray for the Church.

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. For Joe and Kamala, our President and Vice President, Tom our Governor, and Sarah our Mayor. Pray for justice and peace.

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, especially Patty, Fr. Graham and Richelle; for the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison, especially Justin and Mitch. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him, especially our Confirmation class: Elise, Harry, Ewan, Ethan and Lucas. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

I ask your prayers for the departed especially the 525,000 Americans who succumbed to the pandemic, and those killed by violent acts. Pray for those who have died.

I ask your prayers for those celebrating birthdays this week: Kurt and DeeDee.

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

To sum up all these petitions, let us pray together the words Jesus taught us:

*Our Father...*

*BLESSING*

Book of Occasional Services, p. 25, *modified*

Look with compassion, O Lord, upon this your people; that, rightly observing this holy season, they may learn to know you more fully, and to serve you with a more perfect will; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hymn -

*“Now the green blade riseth”*

Hymn #204  
settings by Marcel Dupré and Alastair Cassells Brown