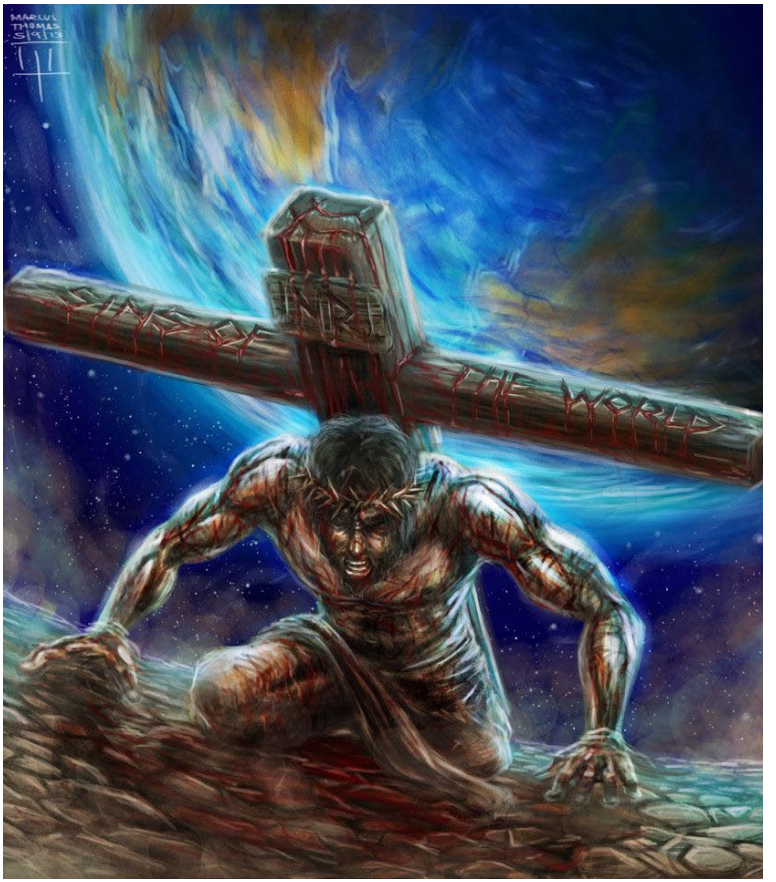
Saint Paul's Episcopal Church

We believe that God is healing and restoring the world,
and that we are recipients of and participants in that healing and restoration.



Sunday, February 28, 2021
The Second Sunday in Lent

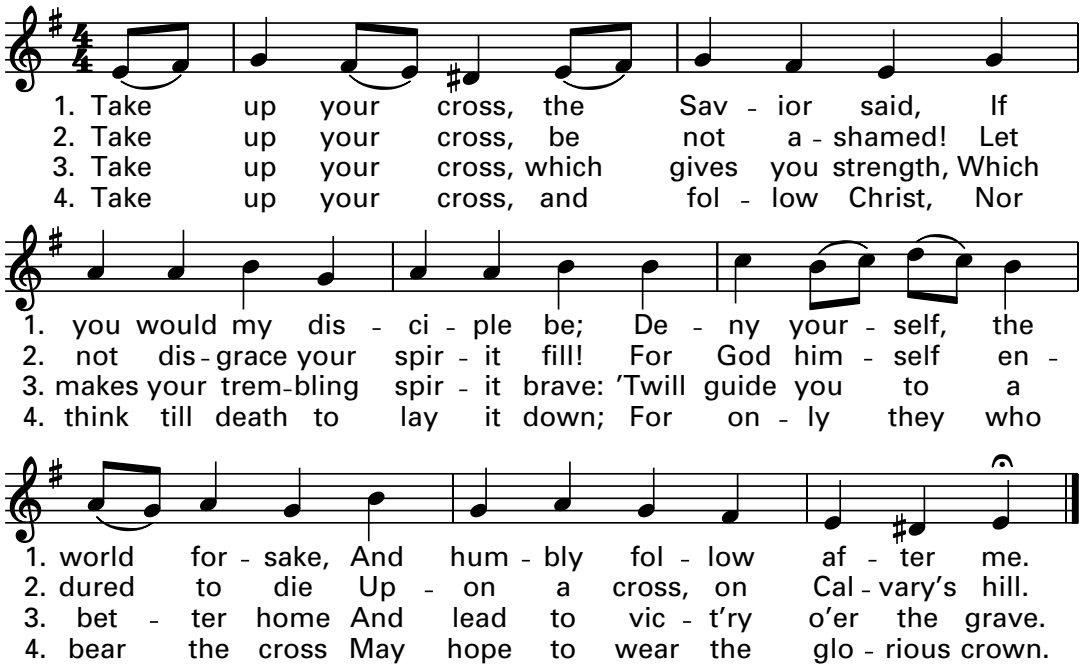
415 South 18th St., Mount Vernon WA 98274-4658
360-424-1822
E-mail: stpaulmv@comcast.net
Website: www.stpaulsmv.org

Morning Prayer, Rite II

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand as you are able.

Opening Hymn **Take Up Thy Cross**



Opening Sentence

Officiant: Rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.

Joel 2:13

Confession of Sin

The Officiant says to the people:

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling:

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 Officiant stands and 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

All stand, as able.

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.
People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People:

**Glory to the Creator, and to the Redeemer, and to the Sanctifier: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Officiant and People:

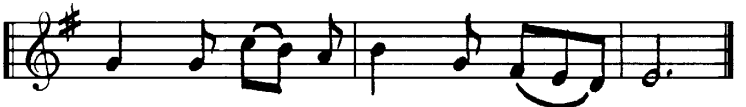
Venite *Psalm 95:1-7*

**Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to God with psalms.**

**For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.
In God's hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are God's also.
The sea is God's, for God made it, *
and God's hands have molded the dry land.**

**Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For the Lord is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to God's voice!**

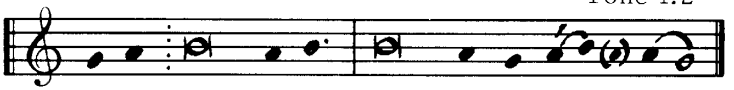
The people are seated.

Psalm 22:23, 25-30

Praise the Lord, you that / fear him*
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;
all you of Jacob's / line, give glo-ry.
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. [ANTIPHON]

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall / praise him:*
"May your heart / live for ev-er!"
All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to / the Lord,*
and all the families of the nations shall / bow before him.
[ANTIPHON]
For kingship belongs to / the Lord;*
he rules o/ver the na-tions.
To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in / worship;*
all who go down to the dust / fall before him. [ANTIPHON]

My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall / serve him;*
they shall be known as the / Lord's for ev-er.
They shall come and make known to a people yet / unborn*
the saving / deeds that he has done. [ANTIPHON]

Tone I.2



Readings

A period of silence will follow each reading.

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

The people remain seated.

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."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God

Silence.

All stand, as able.

Canticle B A Song of Pilgrimage *Priusquam errarem*
Ecclesiasticus 51:13-16,20b-22

Before I ventured forth,
even while I was very young, *
I sought wisdom openly in my prayer.
In the forecourts of the temple I asked for her, *
and I will seek her to the end.
From first blossom to early fruit, *
she has been the delight of my heart.
My foot has kept firmly to the true path, *
diligently from my youth have I pursued her.
I inclined my ear a little and received her; *
I found for myself much wisdom and became adept in her.
To the one who gives me wisdom will I give glory, *
for I have resolved to live according to her way.
From the beginning I gained courage from her, *

therefore I will not be forsaken.
In my inmost being I have been stirred to seek her, *
therefore have I gained a good possession.
As my reward the Almighty has given me the gift of language,*

Romans 4:13-25

The people are seated.

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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God

Silence.

All stand, as able.

Canticle D A Song of the Wilderness *Isaiah 35:1-7,10*

**The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, *
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
It shall blossom abundantly, *
and rejoice with joy and singing.
They shall see the glory of the Lord, *
the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weary hands, *
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to the anxious, "Be strong, do not fear! *
Here is your God, coming with judgment to save you."
Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, *
and the ears of the deaf be unstopped.
Then shall the lame leap like a deer, *
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness *
and streams in the desert;
The burning sand shall become a pool *
and the thirsty ground, springs of water.
The ransomed of God shall return with singing, *
with everlasting joy upon their heads.
Joy and gladness shall be theirs, *
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

Mark 8:31-38

The people are seated.

Officiant: A reading from the Gospel of Mark.

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."

Officiant: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God

Silence.

All stand, as able.

Canticle 14 A Song of Penitence *Kyrie Pantokrator*
Prayer of Manasseh 1-2, 4, 6-7, 11-15

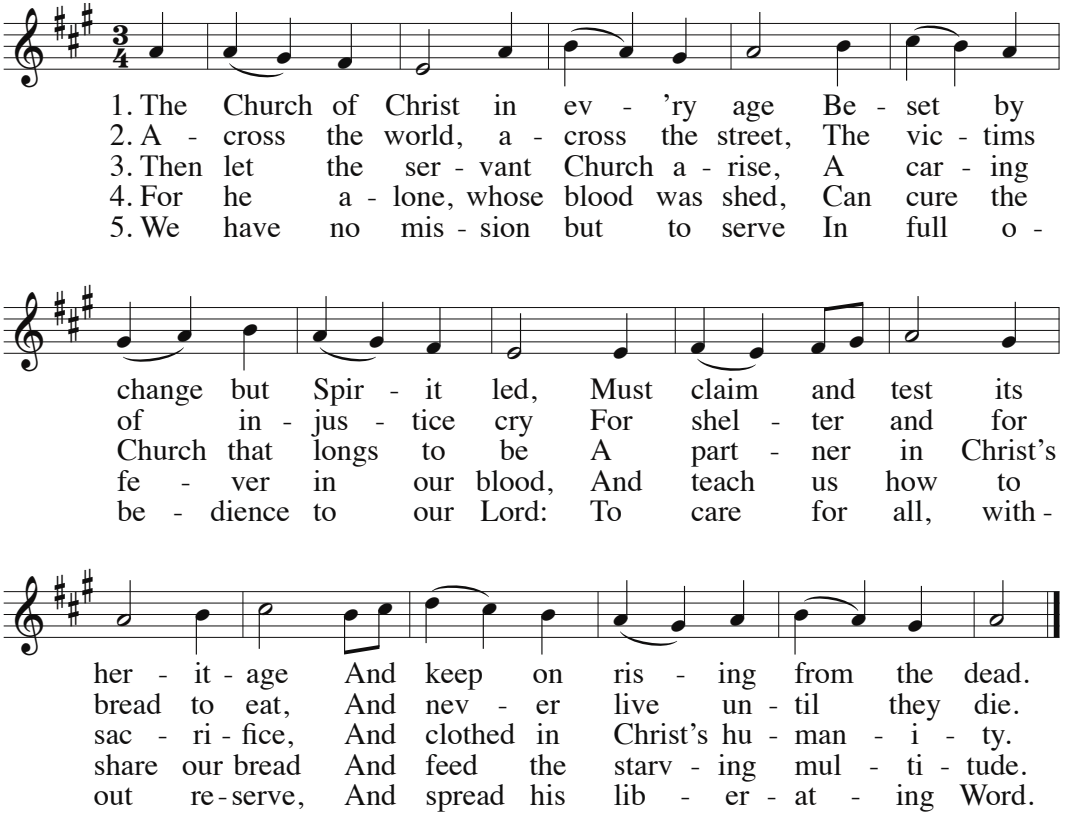
O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven, *
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
and of all their righteous offspring:
You made the heavens and the earth, *
with all their vast array.
All things quake with fear at your presence; *
they tremble because of your power.
But your merciful promise is beyond all measure; *

it surpasses all that our minds can fathom.
O Lord, you are full of compassion, *
long-suffering, and abounding in mercy.
You hold back your hand; *
you do not punish as we deserve.
In your great goodness, Lord,
you have promised forgiveness to sinners, *
that they may repent of their sin and be saved.
And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart, *
and make my appeal, sure of your gracious goodness.
I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, *
and I know my wickedness only too well.
Therefore I make this prayer to you: *
Forgive me, Lord, forgive me.
Do not let me perish in my sin, *
nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.
For you, O Lord, are the God of those who repent, *
and in me you will show forth your goodness.
Unworthy as I am, you will save me,
in accordance with your great mercy, *
and I will praise you without ceasing all the days of my life.
For all the powers of heaven sing your praises, *
and yours is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.

The people are seated.

The Sermon **The Reverend Paul Moore**

Hymn **The Church of Christ, in Every Age**



Apostles' Creed

All stand, as able.

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

All stand, as able.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

The Officiant and People say 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.

The Officiant and People say responsively:

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. And grant us your salvation.
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. Let your people sing with joy.
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. For only in you can we live in safety.
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your saving health among all nations.
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

Collects

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.**

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, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

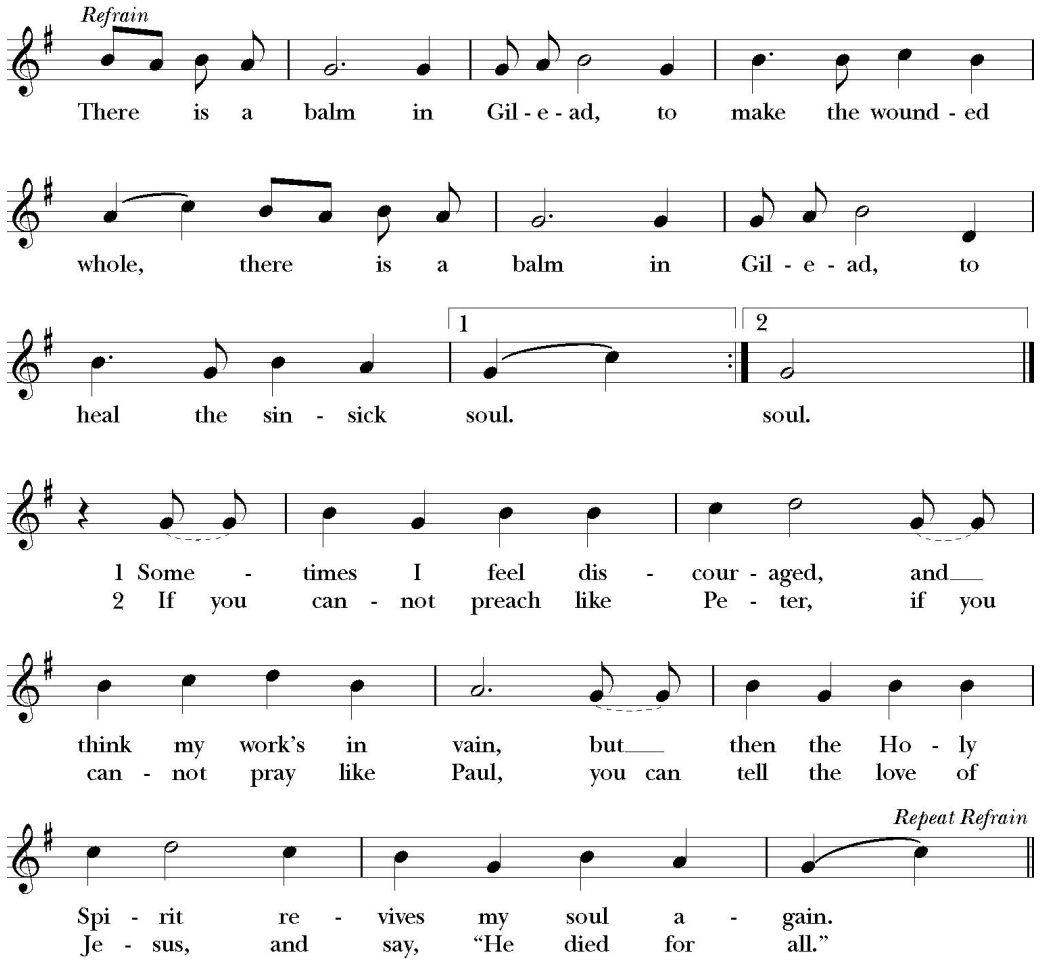
O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord God, almighty and everlasting One, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Hymn **Balm in Gilead**

**The refrain will be sung only once each time, using the second ending only.*

Celebrations and Thanksgiving of Life

Prayers of the People

Silence.

Reader: I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.
Pray for the Church.

Silence.

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

Silence.

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence.

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God.
Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence.

I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died.

Silence.

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.

Silence.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People:

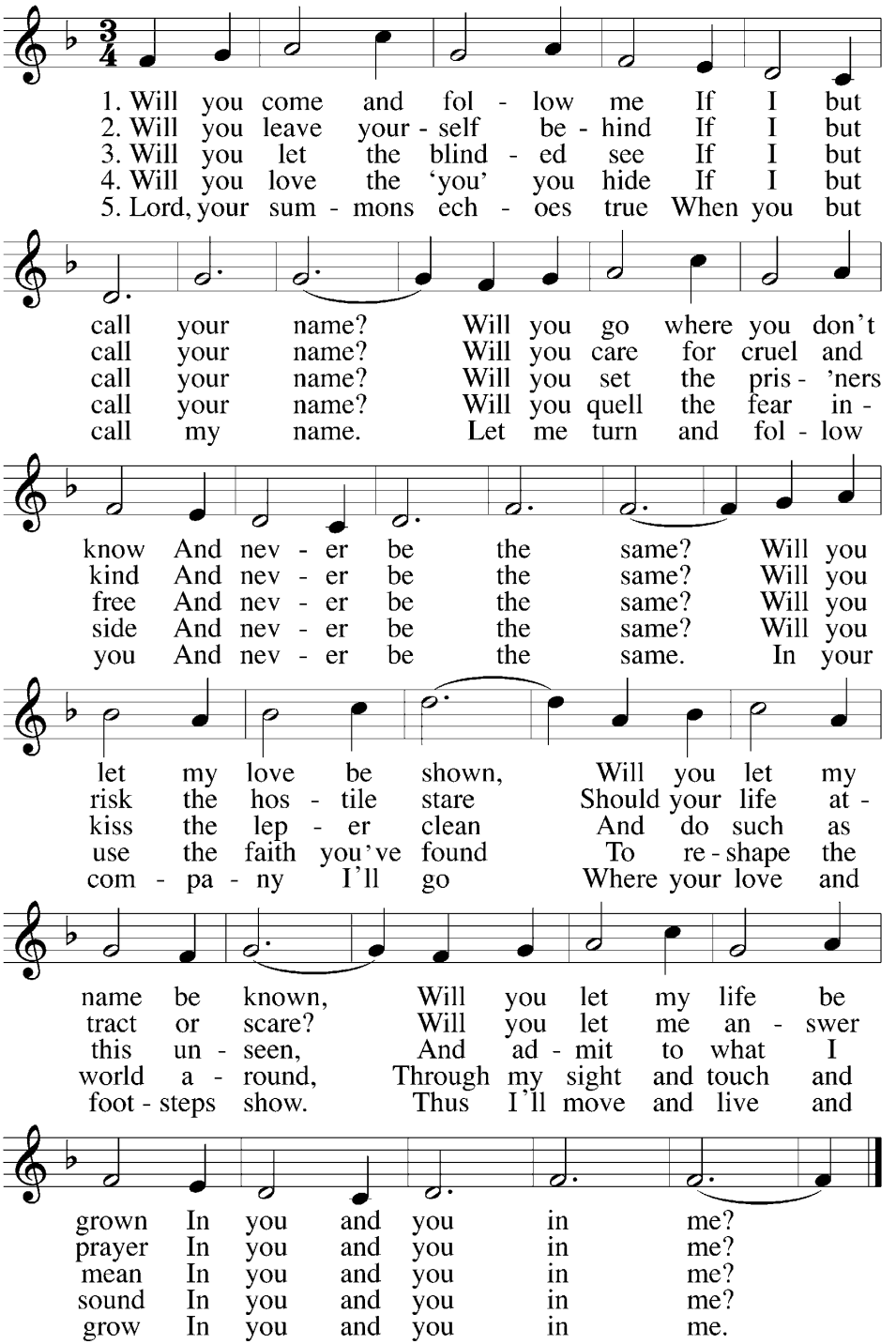
Almighty God, Source of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our 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.

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.**

Prayer over the People

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

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

Closing Hymn **The Summons**

Offertory - Thank you for giving!
Please drop your offering in the church's mailbox or mail it to:

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
415 S. 18th Street
Mount Vernon, WA 98274

Celebrations and Thanksgiving of Life

Submit your celebrations of birthdays and other life events to be read aloud in the service via email (*stpaulmv@comcast.net*) by Wednesday afternoons at 2:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Prayer Team prays daily for those on the prayer list.
Please email Penny Worrell at *penny.worrell@gmail.com*.

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One Parish, One Prisoner (OPOP)

"I was in prison and you came to visit me."
(Matthew 25:36b)

Statistics show that the likelihood of someone recently out of jail to be back in jail in a year's time is 50%. The number grows with time. However, programs, especially faith-based programs, have a proven effect of lowering that figure to as low as 10%. Chris Hoke with Underground Ministries, has developed a program called One Parish, One Prisoner that seeks to provide this kind of program. More information can be found at the website, undergroundministries.org/opop. The Vestry has embraced the program in cooperation with Resurrección. Chris has a prisoner in mind whom he believes would be a good fit. A committee of 6-8 people is needed to steer us through this exciting ministry. We have 6 so far. We are looking for two more with connections in the community and a heart for this ministry. If this is something that tugs at your heart, please give Fr. Paul a call or send him an e-mail. Thank you!

February is Black History Month, and St. Paul's is observing it in two ways.

Our worship will honor the inspiring and varied gifts brought to the world of sacred music as expressed in the Black Spiritual tradition. Each Sunday we will sing a hymn in this style, and the usual piano preludes will instead feature a series of four concert song arrangements of spirituals by Harry T. Burleigh. The grandson of Hamilton Waters, a Maryland slave who was simply turned out when he became blind, Burleigh was noticed for remarkable musical talent at a young age. He went on to study at the National Conservatory of Music in New York City on full scholarship, where learned Classical voice, harmony, and counterpoint, and played double bass and tympani in the conservatory orchestra. He sang for twenty-five years at Temple Emanu-El, and fifty-two at St. George's Episcopal Church, until three years prior to his death in 1949. Many famous singers coached with Burleigh, including Enrico Caruso, Roland Hayes, Marian Anderson, and Paul Robeson. He was an expert linguist, vocally fluent in Hebrew, Latin, Italian, French, German, and "the American English dialect of the slaves". Burleigh felt it was respectful to honestly represent the customary pronunciations and grammar used to pass these songs down from generation to generation, which survived by the sheer will of oral tradition until academics like himself saw their worth and elevated them to their proper and esteemed place in the musical firmament. Songs in the spiritual style, he said, were never "composed", but spontaneously sprang into life from the heat of religious fervor. They are a perfect representation of our Lenten focus on lament--that leads to deliverance. Burleigh himself said of these spirituals that their "cadences of sorrow invariably turn to joy, and the message is ever manifest that, eventually, deliverance from all that hinders and oppresses the soul will come, and man--every man--will be free."

Preaching in the African-American style is a kind of rhetoric that weaves together theology, oratory, theater, and community participation. Black preaching takes up the issues of the day as experienced by Black people and weaves the Christian story of liberation into them in ways that encourage social justice action. I am not a Black preacher, so to attempt to reproduce it would not be appropriate, but the preachers during February will reference African-American theological contributions to the faith and/or the way the Black Christian community has advocated for what our Baptismal Covenant requires of us all, to "strive for justice and peace among all people."

Welcome to Saint Paul's!

We hope that your worship with us will be both inspirational and spiritually nurturing. Please feel free to participate in the worship service as much or as little as you wish. The prayer book gives directions as to when we stand, sit, or occasionally kneel; these are guidelines. What is more important is that you bring your complete self to worship God.

Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's table. During the pandemic, we share Communion in spirit. We ask that those worshiping with us online reverently pray and meditate on God's grace and blessing whenever you observe the Eucharist being taken.

The Rt. Rev. Gregory H. Rickel *Bishop*	206-325-4200	grickel@ecww.org
The Reverend Paul Moore *Rector*	254-368-6475	padrequiteno@gmail.com
The Reverend Dennis Taylor *Deacon / Faith Community Nurse*	360-661-1551	deacon2rn@comcast.net
David Sloat *Organist and Music Director*	713-834-4335	dsloat617@msn.com
St. Paul's Office	360-424-1822	
Parish Administrator		stpaulmv@comcast.net
Bookkeeper		spbookkeeper@comcast.net

If you would like to receive our e-news, please send a message to **stpaulmv@comcast.net.**