



SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II  
SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024  
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Opening Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #339 - Deck thyself, thy soul, with gladness*

1 Deck thy - self, my soul, with glad - ness, leave the  
2 Sun, who all my life dost bright - en; Light, who  
3 Je - sus, Bread of Life, I pray thee, let me

gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's  
dost my soul en - light - en; Joy, the best that an - y  
glad - ly here o - bey thee; nev - er to my hurt in -

splen - dor, there with joy thy prais - es ren - der  
know - eth; Fount, whence all my be - ing flow - eth:  
vit - ed, be thy love with love re - quit - ed;

un - to him whose grace un - bound - ed hath this  
at thy feet I cry, my Ma - ker, let me  
from this ban - quet let me mea - sure, Lord, how

won-drous ban - quet found - ed - high o'er all the heavens he  
be a fit par - ta - ker of this bless - ed food from  
vast and deep its trea - sure; through the gifts thou here dost

reign - eth, yet to dwell with thee he deign - eth.  
hea - ven, for our good, thy glo - ry, giv - en.  
give me, as thy guest in heaven re - ceive me.

Words: Johann Franck (1618-1677); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Schmücke dich*, melody Johann Crüger (1598-1662); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

## A Penitential Order: Rite Two

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People*        ***His mercy endures for ever.***

*The Celebrant may read the following sentences*

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

*The Deacon or Celebrant then says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept. Minister and People*

***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 Bishop when present, or the Priest, 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.***

*Celebrant*        Lord, have mercy.

*People*        ***Christ, have mercy.***

*Celebrant*        Lord, have mercy.

## **The Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.

*People*        ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant*      Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

**[The people may be seated for the readings]**

## **A Reading from the Book of Numbers (21:4 - 9),**

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So, Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So, Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord

*People*        ***Thanks be to God***

## **Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22**

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, \*  
and his mercy endures for ever.

2 Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim \*  
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

3 He gathered them out of the lands; \*  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.

17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; \*  
they were afflicted because of their sins.

18 They abhorred all manner of food \*  
and drew near to death's door.

19 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, \*  
and he delivered them from their distress.

20 He sent forth his word and healed them \*  
and saved them from the grave.

21 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy \*  
and the wonders he does for his children.

22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving \*  
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

**A Reading from The Letter to the Ephesians (2:1 – 10),**

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

*Reader*            *The Word of the Lord*

*People*            *Thanks be to God*

## Sequence Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #691* - My faith looks up to thee

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,  
3 While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs a - round me spread,

Sa - vior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my  
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, O may my  
be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day; wipe sor - row's

guilt a - way; O let me from this day be whol - ly thine.  
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire.  
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.

Words: Ray Palmer (1808-1887). Music: *Olivet*, Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

### [Please stand for the proclamation of the Gospel]

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (3:14 – 21)  
*People* ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

Jesus said, “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be

exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

*Reader*        The Gospel of the Lord  
*People*        ***Praise to you, Lord Christ***

## **Sermon**

### **The Nicene Creed [Please stand, as you are able]**

We believe in one God,  
    the Father, the Almighty,  
    maker of heaven and earth,  
    of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
    the only Son of God,  
    eternally begotten of the Father,  
    God from God, Light from Light,  
    true God from true God,  
    begotten, not made,  
    of one Being with the Father.  
Through Him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
    He came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
    He became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
    and was made man.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
    He suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
    in accordance with the Scriptures;  
He ascended into heaven  
    and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
    and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
    who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son, He is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **The Prayers of the People – Form II [The people may be seated]**

*In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.*

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop, Marty; 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 him.

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*

*Members of the congregation may ask the prayers or the thanksgivings of those present*

On the Anglican Cycle of Prayers, we pray for The Episcopal.

On the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Andrew's, Livingston and the Rev. Kristin Orr, Rector. We also pray for Camp Marshall.

Within our parish family, we pray for Candace, Danielle, Jennie, Jerry, Justin, Laura, Libby, Michael, Nancy, Richard, and Woody. We also pray for our hosts - the staff and community members of Saint John's United.

*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.

*A Collect for Regular Use during Sunday Worship by Congregations in Discernment*

Blessed God, you make all things new: Guide us as we seek your will for a new community of Word and Sacrament, that it may be leaven for the world's bread, and wine of delight for hearts in need; a gathering strong for service and glad in praise; and a people listening and responding to your presence in their midst; through Jesus our Redeemer and steadfast companion. ***Amen.***

*Silence*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

## **The Peace**

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people [Please stand, as you are able]*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***People***      ***And also with you.***

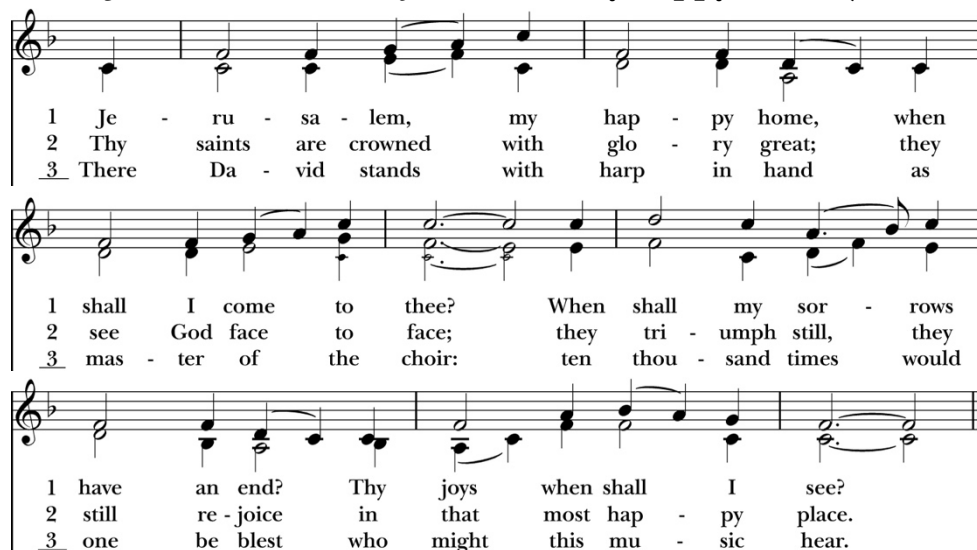
## **Offertory Sentences**

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due His Name; bring offerings and come into His courts.

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Psalm 96:8, Ephesians 5:2*



## Offertory Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #620 - Jerusalem, my happy home (verses 1-3)*



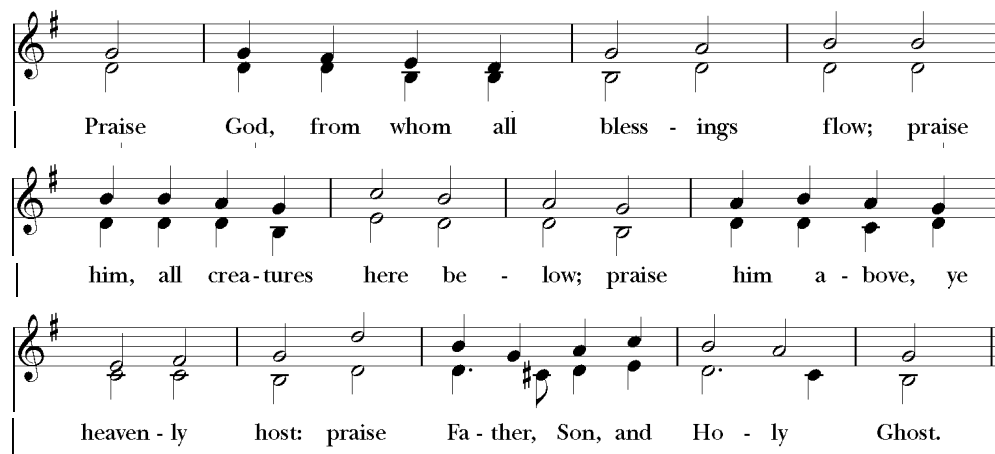
1 Je - ru - sa - lem, my hap - py home, when  
 2 Thy saints are crowned with glo - ry great; they  
 3 There Da - vid stands with harp in hand as

1 shall I come to thee? When shall my sor - rows  
 2 see God face to face; they tri - umph still, they  
 3 mas - ter of the choir: ten thou - sand times would

1 have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?  
 2 still re - joice in that most hap - py place.  
 3 one be blest who might this mu - sic hear.

Words: F. B. P. (ca. 16th cent.), alt. Music: *Land of Rest*, American folk hymn, adapt. and harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983). Harmony, Copyright © 1938 by J. Fischer & Bro, a division of Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp. Copyright renewed. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

## Anthem



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise  
 him, all crea-tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye  
 heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711)  
 Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?)

## HOLY COMMUNION - Eucharistic Prayer B [Please stand, as you are able]

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* ***We lift them to the Lord.***

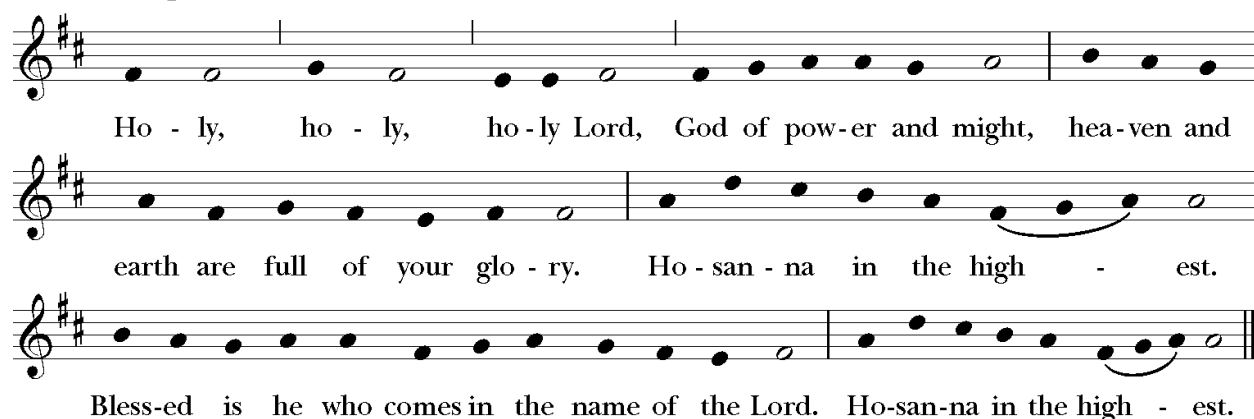
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and  
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Then the Celebrant continues* [People may stand or kneel]

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days, you sent Him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before He died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when He had given thanks to you, He broke it, and gave it to His disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper He took the cup of wine; and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to His command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

***We remember His death,***

***We proclaim His resurrection,***

***We await His coming in glory;***

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and His Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in His sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through Him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Him, and with Him, and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*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 Breaking of the Bread**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

*Celebrant then says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### ***All are welcome at the Lord's Table.***

*Communion in one kind (the bread or the wine) is just as valid as communion in both kinds.*

*If you would like to receive a blessing instead of receiving communion, simply come forward with your arms crossed.*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*  
Let us pray.

**Post-Communion Prayer [People may stand or kneel]**

*Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To Him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

**Blessing**

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

**Announcements**

## Recessional Hymn: *Hymnal 1982* #690 - Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this  
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun-tain, whence the heal - ing  
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might - y;  
 stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar  
 fears sub - side; death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

hold me with thy power - ful hand; bread of hea - ven,  
 lead me all my jour - ney through; strong de - liv - erer,  
 land me safe on Ca - naan's side; songs of prais - es,

bread of hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er -  
 strong de - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and  
 songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to

more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
 shield, be thou still my strength and shield.  
 thee, I will ev - er give to thee.

Words: William Williams (1717-1791); tr. Peter Williams (1722-1796), alt. Music: *Cwm Rhondda*, John Hughes (1873-1932).

*Celebrant*  
*People*

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.  
*Thanks be to God.*

## Churchy Term of the Week – Salvation

Eternal life in the fullness of God's love. Salvation is deliverance from anything that threatens to prevent fulfillment and enjoyment of our relationship with God. In the OT, God was experienced as the savior who delivered Israel from bondage in Egypt (Ex 14–15; See Canticle 8, The Song of Moses, BCP, p. 85; Dt 6:21–23). Salvation history is the ongoing story of God's activity and initiative for salvation. The OT records how God reached out to save the people of Israel through the law and the prophets. God's saving deeds in OT history are celebrated in the liturgy of the word at the Easter Vigil (BCP, pp. 288–291).

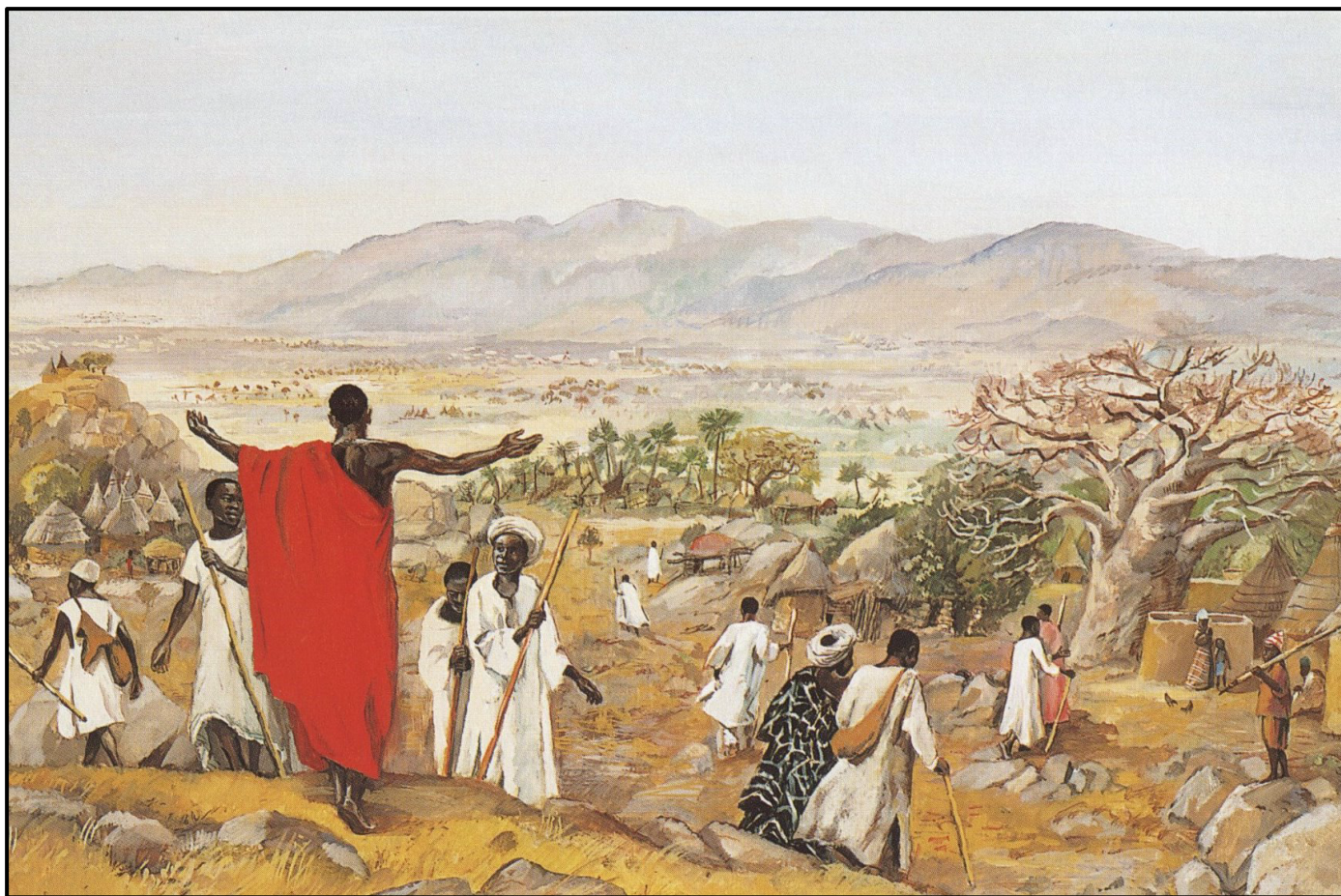
Christians affirm that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus constitute the climax of salvation history. Jesus is our savior who redeems us from sin and death. As we share Christ's life, we are restored to right relationship with God and one another. Despite our sins and insufficiency, we are made righteous and justified in Christ. We share the saving benefits of Jesus' victory over sin and death. Without God's help for our salvation, we die with Adam. But we live in Christ as we share his life by faith (1 Cor 15:22). Christ has "brought us out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life" (BCP, p. 368).

Salvation in Christ is made available to us through the Spirit, especially in the life and sacraments of the church. By the water of baptism, we are buried with Christ in his death and share his resurrection (BCP, p. 306; see Rom 6:3–4). The consecrated elements of the eucharist are for God's people "the bread of life and the cup of salvation," by which we share the body and blood of Christ (BCP, pp. 363, 375; see Jn 6:53–56; 1 Cor 10:16–17).

The gospel proclaims the good news of salvation in Christ (see Jn 3:16–17). We may participate in a saving process of sanctification by which the saving life of Christ is increasingly the reality of our own lives. This process is completed and revealed in Christ, and it is begun in us through faith in him. Completed union with God is the end of this saving process. In Christ, we come to be at one with God. This union with God is not yet completed, and the eschatological Kingdom of God is not yet fulfilled. But the coming of the Kingdom of God has been inaugurated by Christ. The Kingdom of God was revealed in Jesus, who ate with outcasts, forgave sinners, healed the sick, and raised the dead (see Lk 5:17–32; Jn 11:1–44).

We are now in the "in between times." We can know the present reality of salvation in Christ, even though the Kingdom of God is not yet complete in our world, our church, or our hearts. The fulfillment of the Kingdom of God is associated with Jesus' second coming in power and glory. Our hope is that all humanity and all creation will be united in God's love in the fullness of time, and that "nothing, not even death, shall separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (BCP, p. 862; see Rom 8:38–39).

Adapted from Don S. Armentrout's *An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church: A User-Friendly Reference for Episcopalians* Church Publishing Inc., 2000.



*"The Mission to the world" by JESUS MAFA, 1973*

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