

Holy Eucharist

Processional Hymn: *Let thy Blood in mercy poured*

Let thy Blood in mercy poured, let thy gracious Body broken, be to me, O gracious Lord, of thy boundless love the token.

Thou didst give thyself for me, now I give myself to thee.

Thou didst die that I might live; blessed Lord, thou cam'st to save me; all that love of God could give Jesus by his sorrows gave me.

Thou didst give thyself for me, now I give myself to thee.

By the thorns that crowned thy brow, by the spear-wound and the nailing, by the pain and death, I now claim, O Christ, thy love unailing.

Thou didst give thyself for me, now I give myself to thee.

Wilt thou own the gift I bring? All my penitence I give thee; thou art my exalted King, of thy matchless love forgive me.

Thou didst give thyself for me, now I give myself to thee.

Acclamation

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: His mercy endures forever. *Amen.*

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Kyrie Eleison

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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, forever and ever. *Amen.*

The Reading

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn *My faith looks up to Thee*

My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away; O let me from this day be wholly thine.

May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire; as thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide; bid darkness turn to day; wipe sorrow's tears away, nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

Gospel

John 3: 1-17

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And 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.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, visible and invisible. 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.*

Prayers of the People

Intercessor: Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

For the peace of the whole world, and for the well-being and unity of the people of God, let us pray to the Lord. (*silence*)

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

For Foley, our Archbishop, and Steven, our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people of our diocese and congregation, let us pray to the Lord. (*silence*)

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

For all those who proclaim the Gospel at home and abroad; and for all who teach and disciple others, let us pray to the Lord. (*silence*)

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

For our brothers and sisters in Christ who are persecuted for their faith, let us pray to the Lord. (*silence*)

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

For our nation, for those in authority and for all in public service let us pray to the Lord. (*silence*)

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

For all those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity [especially _____], let us pray to the Lord. (*silence*)

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

For all those who departed this life in the certain hope of the resurrection [especially_____], in thanksgiving let us pray to the Lord. (*silence*)

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant concludes with the following prayer

Heavenly Father, grant these our prayers for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. *Amen.*

The Confession and Absolution of Sin

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.*

Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Announcements

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

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 him thanks and praise.

The celebrant continues:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. 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:

The Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He

stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

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 forever and ever. *Amen.*

Breaking of the Bread

Agnus Dei

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world.

Give us your peace, give us your peace.

Holy Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and ever living 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 forever. *Amen.*

Blessing

Closing Hymn *How firm a foundation*

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent word! What more can he say than to you he hath said, to you that for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed! For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid; I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

“When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow; for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply; the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

“The soul that to Jesus hath fled for repose, I will not, I will not desert to its foes; that soul, though all hell shall endeavor to shake, I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake.”

Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

St. Francis Anglican Parish

Prayer List

For the concerns weighing on the hearts and minds of members of this congregation:

Pray for those who are ill:

Rachael
Jack Beyer
*Helen Frechette
*Susan Dixon
Richard Quinn
*Nina Bonti
Carole Womble
*Katie Kerley
Sheila Holland
Cynthia McNeil

Les Sadler
*Mackenzie Stinson
Nancy Griffin
Mary Quinn
Ken Jeffries
James Oberkirsch
Mary Taylor
Patricia Spaulding
*Harriet Tice
*Peggy Nelson
*Betty Davies

Jean Banzel
*Betty Pittman
Dierdre Hearn
Sophia Johnson
Ron Perkinson
*Jim Bonti
Mary Perkins
*Betsy Parnell
*Linda Pate
Barb Cavalluzi
Nolan Keith

*Member of St. Francis

If you need to add or remove a name from the prayer list please call Betsy Parnell at 919-776-8857. Names will be removed after three weeks unless you contact Betsy to extend the time.

Pray for strength and divine guidance: Mari, Bruce, Cathy Stinson, Jeff Johnson.

Pray for those serving all over the world in our military: Matthew Pate, Ben Hodsdon, William Puckett, Katherine Campbell, Tommy Walker, Brian Gille, George Walter, Patrick Hart, Jim Makepeace, Stephen Hart, Rick Smith, Chris Bladgett, Ryan Childress, Greg Poe, Josh Pratt, Jody Gordon, Raymond Desantos and Eliza.

Pray for the departed: George Lucas, Donald Johnson, John Pittman, Marshall Wagoner, Ellen Staton, Ken Williams, Mary Parish, Hariette Woodeson, Roy Lawrence

Those serving today:

Ushers:	Tom Reese and Jim Jameson
Chalice Bearers:	Linda Bruce and Gordy reese
Lector:	Julie Anne Lawrence
Acolytes:	Callie and Brenda Steger
Coffee Hour:	Kathy Blackwelder and Judy Tulloch
Organist:	Rosemary Parten
Altar Guild:	Tammy Bennetts, Mari Hann, Beth Puckett and Barbara Jameson

Announcements

Sunday School - Both the adult's and children's Sunday School will convene today. And, Stuart Smith will be teaching our first ever middle school class today!

Youth Group - Recovering from Lock In last night. No meeting today.

Lenten Soup Pot - Please support this throughout the season of Lent.

Men's Group - Monday, March 13, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

Confirmation class for young people - Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 4:30 pm.

Holy Eucharist - Each Wednesday during Lent at 11:30 am.

Lenten Program - "Lent with Louie", Wednesdays, March 15, 22 and 29, 2017 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm.

St. Francis Prayer Team - Meeting on Monday March 20, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

TIGHTWAD TUESDAY MOVIE: "THE SHACK" - March 21, 4:15 pm showing, followed by optional dinner and discussion at Elizabeth's Restaurant. Buy your ticket and meet in the theater lobby. Sponsored by St. Francis Women's Ministry but open to everyone. Sign up sheet on Women's Ministry bulletin board.

Holy Land Trip - October 2017.

CUOC FOOD CONTRIBUTIONS - Please be consistent in bringing nonperishable food items for the baskets.

Back Pack Pals - Food requests: Ravioli/Spaghetti O's, Beanie Weenies, Cup of Soup-Oodles of Noodles, Vienna sausages, tuna, peanut butter, peanut butter/cheese crackers, fruit cups and/or applesauce, pudding cups, juice boxes, Pop-Tarts, cereal bars, individual boxes of cereal, granola bars. Place donations in the CUOC baskets.

St. Francis website - Please make it a point to visit stfrancisnc.org. There you can get all the latest news about our parish. It's a wonderful website managed by our own Dr. Charles Wick.

If your child listens better with busy hands, you may let him or her use one of the bulletins located on clipboards at the front of the church where the usher stands. Finished bulletins may be exchanged for a treat at Sunday school. Please return the empty clipboard and colored pencils to the basket after the service. If I can improve the bulletin in any way please let me know. I would love to hear your suggestions. - Pam Kerley

Women's Ministry Events

CALLING ALL LADIES: YOU'RE INVITED FOR FOOD, FUN AND FELLOWSHIP tomorrow evening, March 13 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm at Mary Ann Dusenbury's home (1113 Ravenell Drive in Hampton Ponds...look for balloons on mailbox). We'll share wonderful refreshments as we greet old friends and meet new ones. You'll also hear about upcoming spring Women's Ministry Events. Please plan to come even if you didn't sign up in advance! Ask Mary Ann if you need directions.