

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN** The ECW will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 18. The project for the day will be to assemble Easter treats for our parish shut-ins and nursing home patients. If you would like to donate candy to this project, please bring candy (individually wrapped) and place on the center counter in the kitchen before the 18th. All women of the parish are invited to take part on the 18th and enjoy fellowship in "out to lunch" to follow.

**MARCH VESTRY MEETING** is Thursday, March 12, 6:00 pm.

**SECOND SATURDAY SERIES** The 2nd Saturdays @7 Series will continue in March with a service of Stations of the Cross on Saturday March 14. We will gather for a meager meal of soup and bread at 6:30 and the service will begin at 7:00 pm. A brief time of education will follow the service.

All Youth are invited to participate in Stations of the Cross on Saturday, March 14 and to join in making pretzels following the service.

**A DIOCESAN TRAINING DAY** will be held on Saturday March 28 at St Stephens (Wilkes-Barre). This is a day set aside for learning about opportunities and resources for ministry in congregations, and celebrating ministries we share. Many varied workshops will be available. Watch for more information in the ENews, the Visitor and on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

**EASTER FLOWER ORDERS** are due by March 10. Please take a moment to order yours today. Forms are available in the pews and on the table in the Parish Hall.

**SPCA COLLECTION** During the season of Lent we are collecting items for the SPCA. Many things are needed. Towels, animal food, cleaning supplies, office supplies, and batteries are a few of the things they have requested. A detailed Wish-list is on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

*The Flowers on the Altar are given by Mary Jillson-Stout in loving memory of her brother, Robert F Jillson, who died at his home in Ruxton, MD on March 3, 2009.*

## Ministers

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<b>Celebrant / Preacher</b>	The Reverend John Major
<b>Organist</b>	Bernard Gardzalla
<b>Lector / Intercessor</b>	Chris Sutton
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Chris Sutton
<b>Acolytes</b>	TBA
<b>Ushers / Oblationers</b>	Linda Shrader, Matt Stretanski
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Carol Jones, Mary Jillson-Stout
<b>Vestry Counter</b>	TBA

# Sunday, March 1, 2009

## The First Sunday in Lent

### The Music

Prelude: O Man, Bewail Thy Greivous Faults J.S. Bach

**Opening Hymn:** *The God of Abraham Praise* #401

**Gradual Hymn:** *And Now, O Father, Mindful of Thy Love* #337

**Presentation of Offerings:** *Doxology* #380 vs.3

Communion: *One Bread, One Body* LEVAS #151

**Post Communion Hymn:** *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* (Pew Rack) verses 1,2, refrain, 3

**Closing Hymn:** *Have Thine Own Way, Lord* LEVAS #145

Postlude: Prelude & Fugue in E-minor, "The Cathedral" J.S. Bach

### The Lectionary

#### **The Collect of the Day**

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.

**The Lessons** (*The people sit.*)

**The 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 Sarah 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.*

**The Psalm:** *Psalms 22:22-30 Deus, Deus meus*

- 22 Praise the LORD, you that fear him; \*  
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory.
- 23 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.
- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: \*

- "May your heart live for ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, \*  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; \*  
he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him\*  
they shall be known as the LORD'S for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
the saving deeds that he has done.

**The Second Reading: *Romans 4:13-25***

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.*

**THE GOSPEL: *Mark 8:31-38* (Stand & Face the Gospel)**

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

*Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Then 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Christ*

**The Announcements**

**WELCOME**, we are pleased you have come to worship with us today. If you have any questions about our service, please feel free to speak to an Usher.

**REFLECTION ON TODAY'S READING** Part of today's Epistle says "No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God...(he was) fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised." Are we striving to bring the same faith to our spiritual and stewardship lives? The idea of absolute trust in our Creator can be an elusive idea to wrap our hearts and minds around!

**RESTORE THE GLORY** Last Sunday we kicked off the campaign to repair and restore the Chancel windows (the ones behind the Altar) which are at risk of falling out from many years of exposure to heat and cold. You should have received information through the mail about this campaign with a request for your support. The "Restore the Glory" Committee members are Father Major, Carl Goeringer, Dave Dillon, Dan Monk, Dan Plashinski & Jennifer Martin.

**ANNUAL REPORT FINANCIALS** Our Treasurer, Bonnie Hiscox and Finance Committee Chair, Carl Goeringer will be available this morning after church to present and discuss the Revised 2008 Financial Reports and to answer any questions about them.

**PENNIES FROM HEAVEN** The Church School is collecting pennies & other change for the Season of Lent. Check out our 'Outer Space' Penny Chute in the stairwell! All money raised will be donated through Episcopal Relief & Development.

**PRAYER LIST** Please remember to keep those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit in your prayers this week, especially: *Bishop Paul, Therese, Heather, Jack, Henry, Sarah, Matt, Debbie, Hennie, Andrea, Brian, Hans, Karen, Len, Father Jim, Grace, Nicole, Lee, David, Maryann & SPF Sean Capellini-Boyle.*