



# ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

JENSEN BEACH, FLORIDA

## *Wednesday Devotional Time*

**March 24, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.**

**Officiant:** Father Tony Holder, Rector

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### **Mission Statement:**

The Community of All Saints' accepts the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship of God, service to His people and stewardship of His gifts.

*The people are invited to read the parts in **bold**.*

Prelude Music

**"Lead me Lord"**

*Basil Valdez*

Opening Sentences

*The Officiant begins with the following words:*

*Officiant:* I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation. Great are the deeds of the LORD! they are studied by all who delight in them. His work is full of majesty and splendor, and his righteousness endures for ever. (*Psalm 111.1-3*)

Prayer

*Officiant:* Almighty, heavenly Father, the works of your hands proclaim your wisdom, holiness, power and glory, for you fashioned the vast galaxies of stars throughout the Universe and gave us stewardship of this lovely, self-sustaining world with its remarkable varieties of plant and animal life. More than that, you have tried to establish a covenant of love and faith with human beings from the beginning of our history, yet when we rebelled against you and made ourselves your enemies, you took on our humanity as Christ Jesus, not only experiencing our lives, but dying for our sins.

As we prepare to hear again the passion of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we are amazed by the love you have for fallen humanity, for you not only shared our mortal frame as Jesus, but became the one perfect sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. By his death at Calvary, Jesus broke the power of Satan and, when he was raised on the third day, he triumphed over death, so that through his grace we have the gift of eternal life and death no longer has the final word. Glorious heavenly Father, our words are inadequate to describe your greatness, so we pray that you will accept the best we can offer in our worship and in our lives, for we want to be your holy people, a light to all who do not know and love Christ Jesus.

Loving Lord, thank you for all the blessings we have received from you throughout our lives: the good things we enjoy; experiences and opportunities that have enriched us and people who have loved us, guided us and brought light and joy to us. Merciful Lord, we ask your forgiveness for our failure to live as you would have us live: for our foolishness, hard-heartedness, unwillingness to forgive and our lack of faith. Lord, pardon us for the sins we have committed and the good we

have neglected to do, as we repent of our wrongdoing in Jesus' lovely name.  
Most gracious God, we believe that you answer our prayers, and offer us a fresh beginning.  
Therefore, help us to model our lives, our responses and our deeds on the perfect example of  
your dear Son, Christ Jesus, so he may shine through all we do and say, thus guiding neighbors to  
know, love and follow him.

**People:** Amen.

### Scriptural Reading: John 8. 31-42

*Reader:* A Reading from the Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are descendants of Abraham; yet you look for an opportunity to kill me, because there is no place in you for my word. I declare what I have seen in the Father's presence; as for you, you should do what you have heard from the Father."

They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are indeed doing what your father does." They said to him, "We are not illegitimate children; we have one father, God himself." Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now I am here. I did not come on my own, but he sent me."

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

Reflection

The Rector

Musical Selection:

**"In the cross of Christ I glory"**

*Hymnal Project*

### Confession and Absolution

*A brief silence may be observed for examination of conscience. The Officiant then says*

*Officiant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**People:** Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ your Son.

*The Officiant says the following Absolution.*

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

**People:** Amen.

## Intercessory Prayers

*Musical selection - "Taize Instrumental" is played during the prayers.*

*Officiant:* Almighty God, your Son Christ Jesus promised that you will hear us when we ask in faith, so we ask you to receive the prayer we now offer. We know you have given us a beautiful, self-sustaining planet upon which to live, yet we are aware of its brokenness, both through natural disasters and, more often because of human, pride, foolishness and greed.

Help us learn to co-operate with one another by standing up against prejudice in any of its guises, to encourage one another to care for our creation, so future generations will inherit a healthy planet on which to prosper. Grant us courage to stand up for justice for all peoples, not just those with whom we feel comfortable, or whose values we share and help us to do what we can to support poor people here and abroad.

Lord we pray for healing in our warring world. Heal the fractured relationships that lead to conflicts. Heal the pride and selfishness of leaders who refuse to negotiate and compromise when disputes arise..... Heal the victims of warfare, persecution and terrorism..... Heal us, too, when our relationships with family, friends and neighbors, break down.

We offer our prayer for healing to the victims of natural disasters throughout our country and the world.

We remember victims of the coronavirus and pray for their deliverance. Help them and us remember that you are with us in this time of trial, so we all may face an uncertain, even threatening future, with grounded hope. We continue to remember with gratitude all doctors, nurses, ancillary staff, care workers and kind-hearted volunteers who are putting themselves in harm's way as they seek to help coronavirus patients and vulnerable members of society. We offer our thanks especially for the healing rendered by them. Help them to cope with the pressures they are facing and may they find blessing and safety in their work.

Loving Lord, you came to heal and comfort the marginalized, those who are lonely, undervalued, homeless, and unemployed, and those who are sick, so we pray for the healing of everyone we know who is sick in body, mind or spirit, or recovering from injuries or surgery, especially ..... Grant them wellbeing, hope and peace not only through the professional care and support they are given, but by feeling your presence during their time of need. Remember, O Lord, people who are living with dementia, their families, friends and caregivers who struggle to manage day by day. Reassure them in their confusion, comfort them in their distress and let them feel loved and valued amidst the problems they are facing.

We offer our prayers for those who have died and for their families and friends who are bereaved. In a time of silence we offer the names of people for whom we are particularly concerned ..... Help us to be sensitive to the needs of people around us, so we can befriend and support them. Loving Lord, hold them in the warmth of your love, so it may bring them healing, comfort, hope and peace.

Holy God, we pray not only for this Church and churches in our Diocese and Province, but for churches all over the world. As we continue our journey through Lent to Calvary and the empty tomb at the Resurrection, may your Holy Spirit heal and unite us in love and outreach, so we become beacons of hope to our world which is darkened by sin and often times selfishness.

Abba, Father God, bless us, our friends and families. Keep us free from harm and grant us strength to resist temptation to sin. May the Holy Spirit help us share the love you give us in such abundance with all persons, so we honor you in the sacred name of Christ our Savior.

*People:* Amen.

*The Officiant concludes the Prayers with the following,*

*Officiant:* Almighty God our heavenly Father, renew in us the gifts of your mercy; increase our faith, strengthen our hope, enlighten our understanding, widen our charity, and make us ready to serve you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*People:* **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

*Contemporary Choir, St. Dominic's San Francisco*

The Blessing and Dismissal

*The Officiant may say*

Go from this time of prayer into the world to be people of love, justice, peace and hope, and may God – Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer– guide and support you in all you do.

*People:* **Amen.**

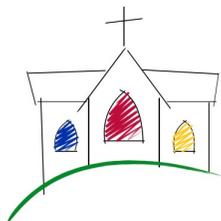
*Officiant:* Let us bless the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

Musical Selection:

**“King of Kings”**

*Hillsong*



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**Rector:** The Reverend Dr. Anthony B. Holder

**Deacon:** The Reverend Alan Gellert