

Zoom Meeting ID: 326 920 7504

Call-in option: 1) Dial 646-568-7788 or 929-205-6099, 2) Enter 326 920 7504 # and 3) Press # for a participant's ID

*Officiant* When anyone is united to Christ, there is a new world; the old order has gone, and a new order has already begun. *2 Corinthians 5:17*

### Confession of Sins

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

*All* **We repent the wrongs we have done:**

**We have wounded your love.**

**O God, heal us.**

**We stumble in the darkness.**

**Light of the world transfigure us.**

**We forget that we are your home.**

**Spirit of God, dwell in us.**

*Officiant* Eternal Spirit, living God,  
in whom we live and move and have our being,  
all that we are, have been, and shall be is known to you,  
to the very secret of our hearts  
and all that rises to trouble us.  
Living flame burn into us,  
cleansing wind, blow through us,  
fountain of water, well up within us,  
that we may love and praise in deed and in truth. **Amen.**

### The Invitatory and Psalter

*Officiant* Eternal Spirit, flow through our being and open our lips, *+(you may cross your lips with a right thumb)*

*Celebrants* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*All* **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Officiant* The mercy of the Lord is everlasting: Come let us adore him.

Life in the Spirit *based on Romans 8:2, 14-19*

*All* **In Christ the life-giving law of the Spirit:**

**has set us free from the law of sin and death.**

**All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God:**

**it is the Spirit that enables us to cry, Abba, Father.**

**The Spirit confirms that we are God's children:**

**and if children then we are heirs.**

**We are heirs of God, and fellow-heirs with Christ:**

**if we share his suffering now,**

**in order to share his splendor hereafter.**

**The sufferings we now endure:**

**bear no comparison with the splendor to be shown to us.**

**The created universe itself waits with eager longing:**

**for the children of God to be revealed.**

*Officiant* The mercy of the Lord is everlasting: Come let us adore him.

## The Lesson

Reader

A Lesson from *Luke 23:33-43*

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. The people stood by, watching Jesus on the cross; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Reader

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Celebrants

**Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 16: The Song of Zechariah      Luke 1:68-79      *Benedictus Dominus Deus*

All

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \***

**he has come to his people and set them free.**

**He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \***

**born of the house of his servant David.**

**Through his holy prophets he promised of old,**

**that he would save us from our enemies, \***

**from the hands of all who hate us.**

**He promised to show mercy to our fathers \***

**and to remember his holy covenant.**

**This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \***

**to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**

**Free to worship him without fear, \***

**holy and righteous in his sight**

**all the days of our life.**

**You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \***

**for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,**

**To give his people knowledge of salvation \***

**by the forgiveness of their sins.**

**In the tender compassion of our God \***

**the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \***

**and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \***

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Hymn

*You are holy (Prince of Peace)*

Artist: Michael W. Smith

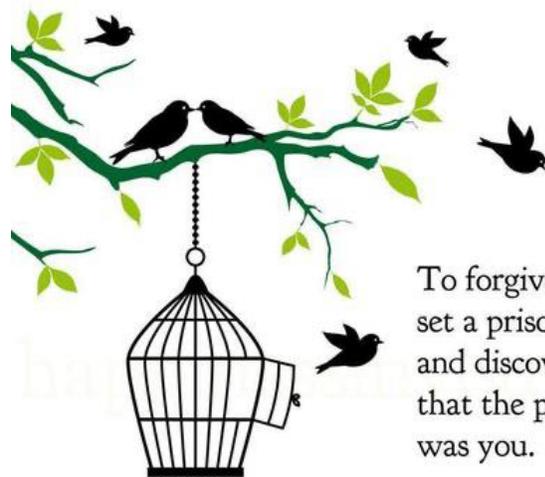
Today's gospel reading illustrates events which led up to Jesus' crucifixion. Jesus is being crucified between two thieves. The criminal on the left of Jesus derided him. He says to Jesus, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" The thief did not think he deserved his punishment. He just wanted to be free and alive, not dead. The other thief, however, was faithful. He was God-fearing. He understood that they were being punished for what they did. He knew that Jesus did nothing wrong and was innocent. The good thief does not expect Jesus to save him from his death. As he was about to die, he turned to Christ for forgiveness and Christ accepted him. The criminal's appeal is that, when Jesus comes into his kingdom, Jesus should remember this one who was crucified with him. Jesus has the power to pardon. Jesus assured him on that day he would be in paradise. Even in Jesus' misery, Jesus had mercy on this criminal who decided to believe in Him. Father Paul recently shared with us that the kingdom of God is when our life is focused on showing love, compassion, and mercy to others.

Showing mercy is the act of showing compassion to someone else, especially if that person has harmed you in some way. On my spiritual journey, I have had to deal with the pain, sadness and anger I experienced because of the combative relationship I have with my mother. All my life she and I have fought, and we are not close. In April my two brothers and I learned that our mother fell in her home. It was determined she could no longer live on her own and she was placed in an assisted living facility. Her home had to be cleared out; her finances dealt with; her home sold; and her Medicaid application had to be processed. My two brothers could not take care of all this. My oldest brother was dealing with serious health issues and my other brother has a hectic work schedule. So, all these issues had to be handled by me. My mother made her power of attorney. I was angry with all I had to do. As if I didn't have enough to do with working full-time; being a mother; a wife and my diaconate process. I had to clear out her home; have it listed with a realtor and process the lengthy Medicaid application. Anytime I was given a task to do, a wave of anger and hostility would well up within me. I would think to myself "Really? What did my mother ever do for me? Why should I do this? She doesn't deserve this help." My anger was palpable.

I asked my friend Mark for help with all this. Mark telling me "Nancy, resentment is like drinking poison and hoping it will kill someone else." He stressed the importance of me learning to forgive my mother. He explained that once I can forgive her, I will no longer carry this burden of my anger and hurt. I told him, "That is impossible." I argued, "Why should she win? It was not fair that she should be given a pass for all the wrongs in my life." I felt that she had to pay for all the wrongs she had done to me. Mark urged me, for my own sake, to take steps to forgive her. How could you forgive someone who caused me so much pain and hurt? We often hear that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different outcome. I realized that I could not forgive my mother unless my view of her changed. I had to look at her in a different way. Over the past few months, I have learned many things about my mother. My view of her has changed. I learned that she is a person who was deeply hurt by life and life's circumstances. She is no longer the angry woman, whom I have known all my life. She is now quite vulnerable and humble. This has enabled me to empathize with her. I feel compassion for her. And I have finally forgiven her.

The good thief looked beyond his death to a heavenly kingdom of God. One of the best ways to be a witness for Jesus in a world that's becoming more judgmental, selfish, and unforgiving is to show mercy to others. Every time we show mercy, compassion, and forgiveness, we participate in the life of Christ. It is then when the kingdom of God exists, not only in a heavenly realm, but here on earth.

*Heavenly Father, forgive me for all the times I withheld compassion and forgiveness from others. Would you please work in my heart and make me more like you? Lord, give me the grace I need to see the people in my life through your eyes. Pour out your compassion into my heart so that I reflect it to others today. Guide my feet into the way of peace. In Jesus' name, Amen.* (Prayer by Betsy de Cruz)



To forgive is to  
set a prisoner free  
and discover  
that the prisoner  
was you.

- Lewis B. Smedes

## The Apostles' Creed

*All* 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.

## The Prayers

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.  
*Celebrants* **And also with you.**  
*Officiant* Let us pray, singing

**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 Supplication *Pray responsively.*

Let us pray with confidence, anticipating peace on earth,

V. The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,  
**R. God, forgive.**

V. The covetous desires of humans and nations to possess that which is not their own,  
**R. God, forgive.**

V. The greed which exploits human labor, and lays waste the earth,  
**R. God, forgive.**

V. Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,  
**R. God, forgive.**

V. Our indifference to the plight of the homeless and the refugee,  
**R. God, forgive.**

V. The lust which uses for ignoble ends the bodies of all human beings,

**R. God, forgive.**

V. The pride which leads to trust in ourselves and not in God,

**R. God, forgive.**

V. In the midst of hunger and war,

**R. We celebrate the promise of plenty and peace.**

V. In the midst of oppression and tyranny,

**R. We celebrate the promise of service and freedom.**

V. In the midst of doubt and despair,

**R. We celebrate the promise of faith and hope.**

V. In the midst of fear and betrayal,

**R. We celebrate the promise of joy and loyalty.**

V. In the midst of hatred and death,

**R. We celebrate the promise of love and life.**

V. In the midst of sin and decay,

**R. We celebrate the promise of salvation and renewal.**

V. In the midst of terrorism, injury, suffering and death,

**R. We celebrate the promise of the living God with us.**

#### **The Collect for Last Sunday after Pentecost**

*All* **Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

#### **For God's Mission**

*Celebrant* 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.**

#### **For Adventurous Heart**

*Celebrant* Praise to you, God, for all your work among us. Yours is the vigor in creation, yours is the impulse in our new discoveries. Make us adventurous, yet reverent and hopeful in all we do. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **For Family**

*Celebrant* Lord Jesus, at Nazareth you shared in the life of your family. Help us to live together in our family with love and respect for each other. Make our home a place of blessing, peace and joy for everyone, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

#### **For Courage**

*Celebrant* Loving God, imprint upon our hearts that because we belong to you no one can pluck us from your hand, and because we fear you we need fear no other. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **For Joy**

*Celebrant* God of all delight, grant us that joy which none can take from us, of having a work to do, a life to live; that joy in believing which will carry us through. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

#### **For the Presence of Christ**

*Celebrant* Dear Christ, our friend and our guide, pioneer through the shadow of death, passing through darkness to make it light, be our companion that we may fear no evil, and bring us to life and to glory. **Amen.**

## For Peace

*Celebrant*

O God of many names, lover of all peoples; we pray for peace in our hearts and homes, in our nations and our world; the peace of your will, the peace of our need. **Amen.**

## A General Thanksgiving

*All*

**God of seed and growth and harvest,  
creator of need, creator of satisfaction;  
give us, we pray, our daily bread,  
sufficient and assured for all.  
Give us also, we pray, the bread of life,  
and we shall have a care to feed the hungry,  
and to seek for peace and justice in the world.  
Help us, then, to remember and to know  
that you are our life today and every day;  
you are the food we need, now and for ever.**

**God, give us work till our life shall end,  
and life till our work is done.**

**Look kindly on our world, our God,  
as we suffer and struggle with one another.  
Look kindly on your Church,  
driven by the same necessity;  
and may the light we have seen in Jesus  
illuminate and brighten all the world.**

**Be present, merciful God,  
and protect us through the silent hours of this night,  
that we, who are wearied  
by the changes and chances of this fleeting world,  
may rest upon your eternal changelessness. Amen.**

*Officiant*

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.

*Celebrants*

**Amen. We go in the name of Christ.**

*Officiant*

O Lord and Author of our lives,  
spare us from the spirit of apathy and meddling, of idle chatter and love of power.  
Instead, grant to us, your servant, the spirit of integrity and humility, of patience and love.  
Yes, O Lord and God, grant us the grace to be aware of our shortcomings and not to judge others,  
for you are blessed, now and ever and forever. **Amen.** (St Ephrem)



**Saint Agnes Church**

**65 Union Ave, Little Falls, NJ 07424**

*Serving people of Little Falls and surrounding communities since 1896,*

*Saint Agnes Church is a part of the Episcopal/Anglican branch*

*of the Jesus Movement in the Diocese of Newark, striving to be a contemplative community.*