

# How should we read the Bible - The Genesis Story: Reading Old Testament Narratives



**Join us at the 10:00 "Adult Formation Hour" on Sundays beginning 3 December 2023.**

**Reading the Bible is not merely something we "ought" to do, but is required of us as able and faithful Christians.** St Paul himself called the Bible "the Sword of the Spirit" in his letter to the Ephesians, and the catechism of the Episcopal Church states, "We call the Bible the Word of God because God inspired its human authors and because God still speaks to us through the Bible."

**But HOW should we read the Bible?**

In an ongoing series in this academic year, Fr Patrick will be addressing this very question, beginning with the first book of the Bible, Genesis, and by extension the important genre of Old Testament Narratives.

As a vehicle for this first topic we will use a teaching video series conducted by Professor of English Justin A. Jackson and Professor of Politics and History Larry P. Arn, both of Hillsdale College in Michigan.

**Genesis is a book of fundamental importance for the Jewish and Christian faiths and has exerted a profound influence on Western Civilization.** In addition to being a great religious text, it is also a literary masterpiece.

These lectures explore some of the work's major narrative themes, including the complex relationship between God and man, the consequences of a rupture in that relationship, and the path towards reconciliation.

**We hope to see you there!**

*For Pastoral Emergencies, please contact Fr. Patrick at 404-660-3592.*

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
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*The Brazen Serpent* by Anthony van Dyck

**Services are available online through  
Facebook Live: [Facebook.com/StJohnSouthampton](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnSouthampton)**

**Sunday Services**

8:00 A.M. - Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
9:00 A.M. - Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
11:00 A.M. - Morning Prayer, Rite I  
Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
(1st Sundays each month)

**Weekday Services**

**Monday – Friday**  
7:30 A.M. – Morning Prayer, Rite I  
6:00 P.M. – Evening Prayer, Rite I  
**Wednesday**  
10:00 A.M. – Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 10, 2024 • 11:00 AM

Processional Hymn 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.

I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son."

*Luke 15:18, 19*

“Quote of the Week”



“The proof of love is in the works. Where love exists, it works great things. But when it ceases to act, it ceases to exist.”

Saint Gregory the Great

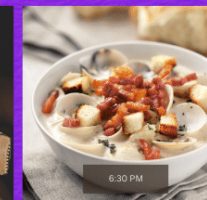
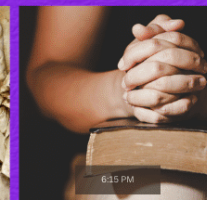
The 64th Pope, he is known for instituting the first recorded large-scale mission from Rome, the Gregorian mission, to convert the then largely pagan Anglo-Saxons to Christianity.

d. 12 March 604

Announcements

St. John's Episcopal Church Lenten Suppers Series

Tuesdays • February 20, 27 • March 5, 12, 19





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.

*Officiant:* Blessed, hallowed, worshiped, and adored be our Lord Jesus Christ on His throne in Heaven, on the altars of His churches, and in the hearts of His faithful people. And may the souls of the faithful departed through the mercies of God rest in peace.

*Officiant and People:* And may Light Perpetual shine upon them. Amen.

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## Verse of the Week

“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.”

John 3:17-18

## Confession

*Officiant*

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

*Officiant and People together, all kneeling*

**Almighty and most merciful Father,  
 we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,  
 we have followed too much the devices and desires of our  
 own hearts,  
 we have offended against thy holy laws,  
 we have left undone those things which we ought to  
 have done,  
 and we have done those things which we ought not to  
 have done.**

**But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,  
 spare thou those who confess their faults,  
 restore thou those who are penitent,  
 according to thy promises declared unto mankind  
 in Christ Jesus our Lord;  
 and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
 that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
 to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

*Officiant*

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## Blessing and Departure of the Children

### Opening sentence and invitatory

*Officiant*

O Lord, open thou our lips.

*People*

And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

*Officiant* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:  
*People* as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*Officiant* The Lord hath manifested forth his glory  
*People* O come, let us adore him.

### Venite Psalm 95:1-7; 96:9, 13

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; \*  
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, \*  
and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.  
For the Lord is a great God, \*  
and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are all the corners of the earth, \*  
and the strength of the hills is his also.  
The sea is his and he made it, \*  
and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship and fall down \*  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is the Lord our God, \*  
and we are the people of his pasture  
and the sheep of his hand.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*  
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.  
For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth, \*  
and with righteousness to judge the world  
and the peoples with his truth.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

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

### *Confitemini Domino*

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

### Closing Hymn 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,

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are placed between the vocal and piano lines. The first system contains the first three lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next three lines. The third system contains the final three lines.

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.

**Gospel**

A Lesson from the Gospel according to Saint John.

*John 3:14-21*

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.”

**Homily**

**The Offertory**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below.  
 Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**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.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:  
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

**The First Lesson**

*Numbers 21:4-9*

A Lesson from the Book of Numbers.

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 poi-

sonous 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.

Here endeth the Lesson

***Benedictus es, Domine***

**Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our fathers; \***

**praised and exalted above all for ever.**

**Blessed art thou for the Name of thy Majesty; \***

**praised and exalted above all for ever.**

**Blessed art thou in the temple of thy holiness; \***

**praised and exalted above all for ever.**

**Blessed art thou that beholdest the depths,**

**and dwellest between the Cherubim; \***

**praised and exalted above all for ever.**

**Blessed art thou on the glorious throne of thy kingdom; \***

**praised and exalted above all for ever.**

**Blessed art thou in the firmament of heaven; \***

**praised and exalted above all for ever.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

**The Second Lesson**

*Ephesians 2:1-10*

A Lesson from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians.

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

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

and that we show forth thy praise,  
 not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
 by giving up our selves to thy service,  
 and by walking before thee  
 in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
 to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,  
 be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

### A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

*Officiant*

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee, and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

*Celebrant* Let us bless the Lord.  
*People* Thanks be to God.

*The Officiant*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

*Ephesians 3:20, 21*

### Announcements

#### Sermon Hymn 339

*Deck thyself, my 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

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.

Here endeth the Lesson

### *Jubilate Deo Psalm 100*

O be joyful in the Lord all ye lands; \*  
 serve the Lord with gladness  
 and come before his presence with a song.  
 Be ye sure that the Lord he is God;  
 it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves; \*  
 we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.  
 O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving  
 and into his courts with praise; \*  
 be thankful unto him and speak good of his Name.  
 For the Lord is gracious;  
 his mercy is everlasting; \*  
 and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:  
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

### The Apostles' Creed

*Officiant and People together, all standing*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth;  
 And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
 who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
 born of the Virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, dead, and buried.  
 He descended into hell.  
 The third day he rose again from the dead.  
 He ascended into heaven,  
 and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
 From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **The Prayers**

*The people stand or kneel*

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*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.**

### **Suffrages A**

V. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

R. **And grant us thy salvation.**

V. Endue thy ministers with righteousness;

R. **And make thy chosen people joyful.**

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. **For only in thee can we live in safety.**

V. Lord, keep this nation under thy care;

R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

V. Let thy way be known upon earth;

R. **Thy saving health among all nations.**

∇. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

∇. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. **And sustain us with thy Holy Spirit.**

### **Intercessions**

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

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

#### **A Collect for Sundays**

O God, who makest us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of thy Son our Lord: Grant us this day such blessing through our worship of thee, that the days to come may be spent in thy favor; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **A Collect for Mission**

Lord Jesus Christ, who didst stretch out thine arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of thy saving embrace: So clothe us in thy Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know thee to the knowledge and love of thee; for the honor of thy Name. **Amen.**

### **The General Thanksgiving**

*Officiant and People:*

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,**

**we thine unworthy servants**

**do give thee most humble and hearty thanks**

**for all thy goodness and loving-kindness**

**to us and to all men.**

**We bless thee for our creation, preservation,**

**and all the blessings of this life;**

**but above all for thine inestimable love**

**in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**

**And, we beseech thee,**

**give us that due sense of all thy mercies,**

**that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;**