



# The Liturgy of the Word

The First Sunday in Lent, Year B

February 21, 2021 • 10:00 a.m.

St. Luke's in the Meadow Episcopal Church

*The people's responses are in bold.*

**Processional Hymn #150**

*Forty days and forty nights*

1 For - ty days and for - ty nights thou wast fast - ing in the wild;  
2 Should not we thy sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,  
3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, Je - sus, Sa - vior, hear our call!  
4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;  
5 Keep, O keep us, Sa - vior dear, ev - er con - stant by thy side;

1 for - ty days and for - ty nights tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.  
2 fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with thee to suf - fer pain?  
3 Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant we may not faint nor fall!  
4 round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as min - is - tered to thee.  
5 that with thee we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

Words: George Hunt Smytton (1822-1870), alt.

Music: *Aus der Tiefe rufe ich*, melody att. Martin Herbst (1654-1681), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

## The Word of God

*Presider* Blessed be the God of our salvation:

*People* **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

## THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*The people are seated.*

## THE FIRST READING **Genesis 9:8-17**

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 25:1-9** (*prayed in unison*)

**1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you;  
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

**2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

**3 Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.**

**4 Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.**

**5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

**6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.**

**7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore he teaches sinners in his way.**

**8 He guides the humble in doing right and teaches his way to the lowly.**

**9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

## THE SECOND READING    **1 Peter 3:18-22**

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The people stand as able at the introduction of the hymn.*

## HYMN AT THE SEQUENCE • 149    *Eternal Lord of Love*

Eternal Lord of love, behold your church  
walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,  
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
moved by your love and toward your presence bent:  
far off yet here--the goal of all desire.

So daily dying to the way of self,  
so daily living in your way of love,  
we walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,  
knowing ourselves baptized into your death:  
so we are dead and live with you in God.

If dead in you, so in you we arise,  
you the firstborn of all the faithful dead;  
and as through stony ground the green shoots break,  
glorious in springtime dress of leaf and flower,  
so into life and glory shall we wake.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark (1:9-15)

**Glory to you, O Christ.**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. 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; who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified; who 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, we are in the wilderness.

As much as we have tried to map, domesticate, and routinize every inch of your creation and every moment of our lives, we know our maps do not tell us where we are with you, and that our schedules often serve to distract us from the reality that we ourselves and so many of our neighbors on this planet are in the wilderness, too. And so we pray:

**Here, in this wilderness, prepare your way, O God.**

With all persons kept in poverty or slavery, all who are in fear from abusers, terrorists, and oppressors, all who face addiction of any kind, and all who are targeted for unjust treatment because of who they are, we pray:

**Here, in this wilderness, prepare your way, O God.**

With leaders in religious, political, economic, and social life; with our families, friends, and neighbors; and with all who work to sustain and protect our lives as military, civilian workers, and first responders, we pray:

**Here, in this wilderness, prepare your way, O God.**

With the millions of Texans who are still without power, who must choose between exposure to the coronavirus and exposure to freezing temperatures within their own homes, we pray:

**Here, in this wilderness, prepare your way, O God.**

With all who need your healing power and with all who offer healing through their skill and presence, we pray:

**Here, in this wilderness, prepare your way, O God.**

Receive the prayers of your people, most merciful God, and remain with us in these wilderness times. Grant us comfort and courage to restore relationships among God's people and God's created earth. **Amen.**

## THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Let us pray also for the forgiveness of our sins.

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful God;  
in your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown, things done and left undone;  
and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, together we pray,

**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.**

## THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace and are then seated.*

## THE BLESSING

The Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness.  
The Spirit drives us there as well.  
Settle in. Make strange companions.  
Endure the trials. Trust the angels.  
Learn the way.

And may the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier,  
be upon you and remain with you in whatever wilderness you find yourself. **Amen.**

## THE DISMISSAL

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

# CLOSING HYMN

## Hosea

### Verses



1. Come back to me with all your heart.  
‡ Trees do bend, 'though straight and tall;  
2. The wil - der - ness will lead you  
In - teg - ri - ty and jus - tice,  
3. ‡ You shall sleep se - cure with peace;



Don't let fear keep us a - part.  
so must we to oth - ers' call. *(To refrain)*  
to your heart where I will speak.  
With ten - der - ness, ‡ you shall know. *(To refrain)*  
faith - ful - ness will be your joy. *(To refrain)*

### Refrain



Long have I wait-ed for your com - ing home to me and



liv - ing deep - ly our new life.

Text: Based on Hosea 6:1, 3:3, 2:16,21; Joel 2:12; Gregory Norbet, b.1940  
Tune: Gregory Norbet, b.1940; arr. by Mary David Callahan, b.1923  
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