



The Liturgy of the Word

The Third Sunday in Lent, Year B

March 7, 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 Smytten (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 PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:

Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE KYRIE

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

THE FIRST READING **Exodus 20:1-17**

Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19 (*prayed in unison*)

**1 The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.**

**2 One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

**3 Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,**

**4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.**

**5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.**

**6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

**7 The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.**

**8 The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

**9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.**

**10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

**11 By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.**

**12 Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.**

**13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.**

**14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

THE SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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 • 641 *Lord Jesus think on me*

1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
 2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, with care and woe op-pressed;
 3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;
 4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is passed,

from harm - ful pas-sions set me free, and make me pure with - in.
 let me thy lov - ing ser - vant be, and taste thy prom - ised rest.
 through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point thou the heaven - ly way.
 I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see, and share thy joy at last.

Words: Synesius of Cyrene (375?-414?); tr. Allen William Chatfield (1808-1896), alt. Music: Southwell, from *Daman's Psalter*, 1579; adapt. *Hymnal* 1982

THE HOLY GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John (2:13-22)

Glory to you, O Christ.

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Karen A. Calafat

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 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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