



The Liturgy of the Word

The Fourth Sunday in Lent, Year B

March 14, 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 alt. 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.

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

The people are seated.

THE FIRST READING **Numbers 21:4-9**

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 poisonous 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.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (*prayed in unison*)

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

**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.**

THE SECOND READING Ephesians 2:1-10

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 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.

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 • 706 *In your mercy Lord, you called me*

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The score consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

1 In your mer - cy, Lord, you called me, taught my
2 Lord, I did not free - ly choose you till by
3 Now my heart sets none a - bove you, for your
sin - filled heart and mind, else this world had
grace you set me free; for my heart would
grace a - lone I thirst, know - ing well, that
still en - thrall'd me, and to glo - ry kept me blind.
still re - fuse you had your love not cho - sen me.
if I love you, you, O Lord, have loved me first.

Words: Josiah Conder (1789-1855); alt. Charles P. Price (b. 1920) Copyright ©1982, Charles P. Price. All rights reserved. Used with permission.
Music: Halton Holgate, William Boyce (1711-1779)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John (3:14-21)

Glory to you, O Christ.

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Allison Sandlin Liles

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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