



The Liturgy of the Word

The Fifth Sunday in Lent, Year B

March 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 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.

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

THE FIRST READING **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 51:1-13 (*prayed in unison*)

**1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.**

**2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.**

**3 For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.**

**4 Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.**

**5 And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment.**

**6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.**

**7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.**

**8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

**9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

**10 Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.**

**11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.**

**12 Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.**

**13 Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

THE SECOND READING Hebrews 5:5-10

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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 • 474 *When I survey the wondrous cross*

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross where the young
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were an

Prince of Glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
cross of Christ, my God: all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
of - fering far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748) Music: Rockingham, from *Second Supplement to Psalmsody in Minstrelsy*, ca. 1780; harm. Edward Miller (1731-1807)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John (12:20-33)

Glory to you, O Christ.

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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 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.

