



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT – MARCH 20, 2022

READINGS: Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 63:1-5, 7; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

THE WORD OF GOD

**Hymn: 648, When Israel Was in Egypt's Land**

Bless the Lord, who forgives all our sins. **God's mercy endures for ever.**

As we prepare to worship, let us call to mind our sin, and the infinite mercy of God. (*silence*)

Almighty God; **Long-suffering and of great goodness: I confess to you, I confess with my whole heart my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments, my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking; the hurts I have done to others, and the good I have left undone. O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you; and raise me to newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, and bring you to everlasting life. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Giver of mercy, alone we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves. When we are discouraged by our weakness, strengthen us to follow Christ, our pattern and our hope; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EXODUS

IN THIS HEBREW BIBLE STORY, MOSES ENCOUNTERS GOD IN THE BURNING BUSH, AND HE ASKS TO KNOW THE NAME OF THIS GOD OF HIS ANCESTORS.

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground'. And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' He said, 'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.' But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" What shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' This is my name for ever, and this my title for all generations.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

IN PSALM 63, THE PSALMIST SEEKS THE LORD IN WHOSE PRESENCE THERE IS SUFFICIENCY AND CONTENTMENT. THE CANTOR SINGS THE REFRAIN: ALL REPEAT, AND SING AS INDICATED:

*O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a barren and dry land where there is no water. Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory. For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise. So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your Name. My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips, for you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.*

#### A READING FROM PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

IN THIS READING, PAUL LOOKS BACK TO THE GREAT EVENTS OF THE EXODUS STORY AND SEES LESSONS FOR CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIANS.

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Tract, Psalm 42:1-7, Tone II: As the deer longs for the water-brooks, so longs my soul for you, O God. My soul is a thirst for God, a thirst for the living God; when shall I come to appear before the presence of God? My tears have been my food day and night, while all day long they say to me, "Where now is your God?" I pour out my soul when I think on these things; how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God, With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, among those who keep holy-day. Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? and why are you so disquieted within me? Put your trust in God; for I will yet give thanks to him, who is the help of my countenance, and my God.*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

As Jesus was teaching outside Jerusalem, there were some there who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did. 'Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." '

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael L. Bradley, rector  
The Apostles' Creed

I believe; **In God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

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

Prayers of the People

In penitence and faith let us make our prayers to God.

For your holy people, that they may triumph over evil and grow in grace,  
we pray to you, O Lord: **Hear our prayer.**

For candidates for baptism and confirmation, that they may live by every word that proceeds from  
your mouth, we pray to you, O Lord: **Hear our prayer.**

For the leaders of the nations, that you will guide them in the ways of mercy and truth,  
we pray to you, O Lord: **Hear our prayer.**

For the needy, that they may not be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor be taken away,  
we pray to you, O Lord: **Hear our prayer.**

For the sick in body, mind and spirit, that they may know your power to heal,  
we pray to you, O Lord: **Hear our prayer.**

For the poor in spirit, that they may inherit the kingdom of heaven and see you face to face,  
we pray to you, O Lord: **Hear our prayer.**

Let us commend the world, for which Christ suffered, to the mercy and protection of God.

*Prayers are offered for special intentions; and the people are bidden to offer their prayers.*

Holy Communion

Anthem:

Though the fig tree does not blossom and there be no fruit on the vine; the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food; though the flock be cut off from the fold; and there be no herd in the stall; yet will I rejoice in the Lord. Yet will I rejoice in the Lord; I will joy in the God of my salvation; God the Lord is my strength.

All things come of thee, O Lord; **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you. Therefore, we praise you,

joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*The celebrant continues with the Prayer of Consecration, Memorial Acclamation, and Great Amen.  
After the breaking of the bread:*

May God's peace be with you always. **And also with you.**

Behold, the Lamb of God. Behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Happy are they who are called to his supper.

*All are invited to come forward and receive the Body of Christ.  
Those who desire a blessing, please keep your hands folded as a sign to the celebrant.*

*After all have received Communion, please stand and pray together:*

Eternal God; **You have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God, that be your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us depart in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn 150, Forty Days and Forty Nights**

Lenten Postlude – Clay Christiansen

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Our 75<sup>th</sup> Year!

We share the light of Christ by loving and serving our neighbors in the world.  
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