

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT – MARCH 3, 2024

READINGS: EXODUS 20:1-17; PSALM 19; 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25; JOHN 2:13-22

We are delighted that you have joined us in worship this morning.
The prayers and spoken responses are printed in this bulletin; hymns can be found in the blue hymnal.

Hymn 318, Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face To Face

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 sins against God and our neighbor. *(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.

Cantor or Choir All
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Cantor or Choir All
Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son.
Cantor or Choir All
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

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.

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.

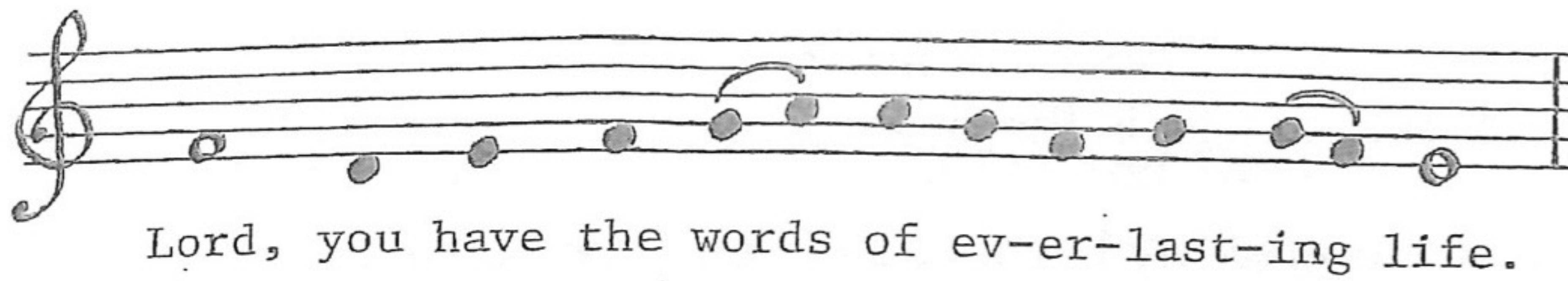
A Reading from the Book of Exodus

In our first lesson, Moses gives the people the ten commandments. The first four commandments prescribe Israel's relationship with God. Those which follow require fundamental responsibilities in human relationships.

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. 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 labor 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 envy with desire your neighbor's house; your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

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

Psalm 19 is a hymn which glorifies the Creator God, with special praise for the law and a prayer for avoidance of sin. The cantor sings the refrain; all repeat, and sing as indicated.



The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent. The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes. **R.** The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb. **R.** By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward. Who can tell how often he offends? Cleanse me from my secret faults. **R.** 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. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. **R.**

A Reading from Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians

In this epistle, Paul directs the Corinthians' attention to God's way of using what is weak and lowly – even what the world regards as foolish – to accomplish God's purposes.

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 the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

all stand

Tract: Psalm 42, Tone II: As the deer longs for the water-brooks, so longs my soul for you, O God. My soul is athirst for God, athirst 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?" 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 John

Glory to you, Lord 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, Lord Christ.**

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael L. Bradley, rector

What do we believe?

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

We pray to the Lord for courage to give up other things and to give ourselves to him this Lent. Give your Church the courage to give up her preoccupation with herself and to give more time to your mission in the world. We pray for . . . May the death of Jesus on the cross bring forgiveness to your people and help us to face the cost of proclaiming salvation. Lord, meet us in the silence; **Give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give your world the courage to give up war, bitterness and hatred, and to seek peace. We pray for . . . May the shoulders of the risen Jesus, once scourged by soldiers, bear the burden of political and military conflict in our world. Lord, meet us in the silence; **Give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up quarrels, strife and jealousy in our families, neighborhoods and communities. We pray for . . . May the presence of the risen Jesus, his body once broken and now made whole, bring peace and direction as we live with one another. Lord, meet us in the silence; **Give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up our selfishness as we live for others, and to give time, care and comfort to the sick. We pray for . . . May the wounded hands of Jesus bring his healing touch, and the light of his presence fill their rooms. Lord, meet us in the silence; **Give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up our fear of death and to rejoice with those who have died in faith. We hold these people in our minds . . . May the feet of the risen Lord Jesus, once nailed to the cross, walk alongside the dying and bereaved, and walk with us and all your Church through death to the gate of glory.

Lord, meet us in the silence; **Give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Our parish prayer list: Richard Simonds, Karen Schulze, Georgiana Solomon, Donald Burton, Lynn Kerber, Ed Haug, Jim Veit, Pat Grant, Nina, Vicki, Bill. For the continuing recovery of Jada Rhein, Lori Pranior.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Holy Cross, Novi; St. Stephen's, Hamburg
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Church of the Province of Uganda

Shape us and transform us by your grace, that we may grow in wisdom and in confidence, never faltering until we have done all that you desire to bring your realm of shalom to fulfillment. Hear all our prayers which we offer to you this day; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Holy Communion

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. The bread is received in the palm of the right hand; the wine by either sipping from the chalice or dipping the bread in the wine. Kindly let the celebrant know if you would prefer a blessing instead of receiving Communion.

Hymn 302, Father, We Thank Thee Who Hast Planted Thy Holy Name Within Our Hearts

The people turn to page 369 of the Prayer Book and participate in the Prayer of Consecration, responding as indicated.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. _____

Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

After the breaking of the bread: May God's peace be with you always. And also with you.
The people briefly greet those around them. Please refrain from shaking hands.

The celebrant says:

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

And the people respond:

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

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

God of mercy and forgiveness; May we who share this sacrament live together in unity and peace, guided by your wisdom and understanding of us. We thank you for these holy mysteries, food for our Lenten journey, and a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Bring us to share in the life that is to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Look kindly on this your family, Almighty God, that by 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 685, Rock of Ages, Cleft For Me, Let Me Hide Myself In Thee

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

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

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