



The Third Sunday in Lent
March 23rd, 2025
9am

Prelude

Prelude in E minor, BWV 533

J.S. Bach

Opening Hymn 574

Before thy throng, O God, we kneel

St. Petersburg

1 Be - fore thy throne, O God, we kneel: give us a con - science
2 Search out our hearts and make us true; help us to give to
3 For sins of heed - less word and deed, for pride am - bi - tious
4 Let the fierce fires which burn and try, our in - most spi - rits
quick to feel, a rea - dy mind to un - der - stand the
all their due. From love of plea - sure, lust of gold, from
to suc - ceed, for craft - y trade and sub - tle snare to
pu - ri - fy; con - sume the ill; purge out the shame; O
mean - ing of thy chas - tening hand; what - e'er the pain and
sins which make the heart grow cold, wean us and train us,
catch the sim - ple un - a - ware, for lives be - reft of
God, be with us in the flame; a new - born peo - ple
shame may be, bring us, O Fa - ther, near - er thee.
Lord, we pray, dai - ly to seek the bet - ter way.
pur - puse high, for - give, for - give, O Lord, we cry.
may we rise, more pure, more true, more no - bly wise.

Words: William Boyd Carpenter (1841-1918), alt.
Music: St. Petersburg, Dimitri S. Bortniansky (1751-1825)

88. 88. 88

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People **His mercy endures for ever.**

The Collect for Purity

Celebrant 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.*

Kyrie S 91

Lord, have mercy upon us

Willan

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.
Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Collect of the Day

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

Old Testament

Exodus 3: 1-15

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.” He said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” 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, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. 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.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I am has sent me to you.’” God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’:

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 63: 1-8



- 1 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.
- 2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, *
that I might behold your power and your glory.
- 3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; *
my lips shall give you praise.
- 4 So will I bless you as long as I live *
and lift up my hands in your Name.
- 5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, *
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- 6 When I remember you upon my bed, *
and meditate on you in the night watches.
- 7 For you have been my helper, *
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- 8 My soul clings to you; *
your right hand holds me fast.

Antiphon

Antiphon

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." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn LEVAS 147

Come, ye Disconsolate

1. Come, ye dis - con - so - late, wher - e'er ye lan - guish,
 2. Joy of the des - o - late, light of the stray - ing,
 3. Here see the bread of life; see wa - ters flow - ing

1. Come to the mer - cy seat, fer - vent - ly kneel:
 2. Hope of the pen - i - tent, fade - less and pure!
 3. Forth from the throne of God, pure from a - bove:

1. Here bring your wound - ed hearts, here tell your an - guish;
 2. Here speaks the com - fort - er, ten - der - ly say - ing,
 3. Come to the feast of love; come, ev - er know - ing

1. Earth has no sor - row that heav'n can - not heal.
 2. "Earth has no sor - row that heav'n can - not cure."
 3. Earth has no sor - row but heav'n can re - move.

Holy Gospel

Luke 13: 1-9

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus 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 around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Chuck Stewart

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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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

BCP pg. 389

All are invited to stand, kneel, or sit for the prayers.

Intercessor

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy”

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, for DeDe our own Bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust especially, Donald, our president, and Kathy, our governor. That they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For all who live and work in this community, especially our clergy, vestry and lay leaders, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For this congregation for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord have mercy.

We pray especially for our young families, children, and those who are welcoming new babies. May we recall the face of God in their lives and remember our call in baptism to support their lives in Christ, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For all those who are affected by the changes and chances of the world we live in, especially those we now name silently or aloud, _____ (silence is kept for a time) we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord have mercy.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Celebrant

Let us confess our sins against God, and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

All

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Absolution

Celebrant

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Announcements

Anniversary & Birthday Blessings

All

May the strength of God pilot you, May the power of God preserve you, May the wisdom of God instruct you, May the hand of God protect you, May the way of God direct you, May the shield of God guard you against the snares of evil and the temptations of the world. May the Spirit of God bless you in the coming year.

Adapted from Patrick, c.389 - c.46

Offertory Anthem

Thou Wast, O Lord

Thomas Tallis, arr. Arlen Clarke

An offering is collected to help support St. James' mission of sharing Christ's love in with the world. You can donate by scanning or tapping the QR code or visiting [www.stjamescan.org/support-stjames](http://www.stjamesscan.org/support-stjames).



Hymn at the Presentation 707, verse 1

Hollingside

**Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus S114

Holy, holy, holy

Willan

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - - - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 8 hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
 14 high - - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the
 20 Name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

All

**We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

All

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Celebrant

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

Celebrant

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Agnus Dei, S-158

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.**

Communion

The sacrament is given to the people.

Music at Communion

Hymn 685

Hymn 648

Rock of ages, cleft for me

Go down, Moses

Toplady

Go Down, Moses

The Postcommunion prayer

All

Eternal God, heavenly Father, 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.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn 145

Now quit your care and anxious fear and worry

Quittez, Pasteurs

1 Now quit your care and anx - ious fear and wor - ry; for
2 To bow the head in sack - cloth and in ash - es, or
3 For is not this the fast that I have cho - sen? (The
4 For right - eous - ness and peace will show their fac - es to
5 Then shall your light break forth as doth the morn - ing; your

1 schemes are vain and fret - ting brings no gain. Lent calls to
2 rend the soul, such grief is not Lent's goal; but to be
3 pro - phet spoke) To shat - ter ev - ery yoke, of wick - ed -
4 those who feed the hun - gry in their need, and wrongs re -
5 health shall spring, the friends you make shall bring God's glo - ry

1 prayer, to trust and ded - i - ca - tion; God brings new beau - ty
 2 led to where God's glo - ry flash - es, his beau - ty to come
 3 ness the griev - ous bands to loos - en, op - pres - sion put to
 4 dress, who build the old waste plac - es, and in the dark - ness
 5 bright, your way through life a - dorn - ing; and love shall be the

Unison Harmony

1 nigh; re - ply, re - ply, re - ply with love to love most high;
 2 near. Make clear, make clear, make clear where truth and light ap - pear;
 3 flight, to fight, to fight to fight till ev - ery wrong's set right.
 4 shine. Di - vine, di - vine, di - vine it is when all com - bine!
 5 prize. A - rise, a - rise, a - rise! and make a par - a - dise!

Unison Harmony

1 re - ply, re - ply, re - ply with love to love most high.
 2 Make clear, make clear, make clear where truth and light ap - pear.
 3 to fight, to fight to fight till ev - ery wrong's set right.
 4 Di - vine, di - vine, di - vine it is when all com - bine!
 5 A - rise, a - rise, a - rise! and make a par - a - dise!

The Dismissal is given by the Celebrant, and the People respond, 'Thanks be to God!'

Postlude

Fugue in E minor, BWV 533

J.S. Bach

Participants in the Liturgy

Celebrant
 Deacon/Preacher
 Organist/Choirmaster
 Director of Contemporary Music & Technology
 Asst. Director of Contemporary Music & Technology
 Crucifer
 Lector & Eucharistic Minister
 Intercessor
 Ushers

The Rev. Toppie Bates
 The Rev. Dr. Chuck Stewart
 Justin Oei
 Michael Larkin
 Dr. Nick Kilkenny
 Mike Echols
 Susan Spencer
 Mary Marshall
 Earl, Connie & Amy Tuttle

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