

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
in your compassion forgive us our sins . . .**

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
Third Sunday in Lent  
March 3, 2013, 10:30 am

from the Prayers of the People

We worship during the season of Lent according to the Holy Eucharist: Rite Two,  
beginning on page 355 of the Book of Common Prayer.

### **The Liturgy of the Word**

*At the sound of the bell, all rise  
for the silent procession*

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

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.**

Holy God,  
Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One,  
**Have mercy upon us.**

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.**

The Lessons (the people sit)

*The First Lesson – 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."

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

*Psalm 63:1-8*

*Refrain:*

**O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you.**

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,**

When I remember you upon my bed, \*  
**and meditate on you in the night watches.**

For you have been my helper, \*  
**and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.**

My soul clings to you; \*  
**your right hand holds me fast.**

*Refrain:*

**O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you.**

*The Epistle – 1 Corinthians 10:1-13*

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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Sequence – Luke 13:1-9 (the people stand)

Hymn: *Rock of Ages*.....685  
Verses 1-2

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

**Glory to You, Lord Christ.**

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.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

Hymn: *Rock of Ages*.....685  
Verse 3

Sermon

The Nicene Creed (*the people stand*)

**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 (Form VI, page 392 of the Book  
of Common Prayer)

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence.*

For all people in their daily life and work;

**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for  
those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world;

**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;

**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and  
oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless,  
and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek  
the Truth.**

For Katharine, our Presiding Bishop, for Kee and Santosh, our  
bishops; for Arnold, our priest, and for all bishops and other  
ministers;

**For all who serve God in his Church.**

Let us pray for **Lynda Denton, Dot Harris, Alice Williams,  
Charlotte and Lannon Poole, Pam Harper, Amber, Jared and  
Dezsel Oliver** (Kathy Haynie), **Brandon Boland** (Cathy Jones),  
**Chris Eady** (Lynne Eady), **Lisa Wallace** (Laura Williams),  
**Jenna Moates** (Kelli Kerr), **John Myer** (Ann Easley, John and  
Kathy Haynie), **Ed Clayton** (Jean Kerr), **Billie Wilkinson,  
Lindsey Burt** (Eddie and Pam Harper), **Melinda Henderson**  
(Ann Easley), **Kathy Brumbleloe** (Ann Easley), **Lee Musso**  
(Cathy Jones), **Oletta Goodwin, Sherry Gritz**, (Arnold Bush),  
**Jackie Henderson** (Ann Easley), **Kyle Pearson** (Arnold Bush),  
and the others we now name: (*the people here add their own  
petitions*).

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*Silence.*

Hear us, Lord;

**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*Silence. The People may add their own thanksgivings.*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence. The People may add their own petitions.*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

**Who put their trust in you.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence may be kept.*

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
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.**

*The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.*

### The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

### Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

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## The Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn: *What Wondrous Love Is This*.....439

### The Presentation

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

### The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him 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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*The people sing (found in the Hymnal at S 129)*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people stand or kneel*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

**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.**

### The Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of  
silence is kept.*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in  
remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your  
hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then  
immediately deliver it to the people.*

Communion Hymn: *As the Deer Pants For the Water....SH-95*  
*After Communion, the people stand or kneel and the Celebrant  
says*

Let us pray.

**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

Recessional Hymn: *Come We That Love the Lord*

**Come, we that love the Lord,  
And let our joys be known;  
Join in a song with sweet accord,  
Join in a song with sweet accord,  
And thus surround the throne,  
And thus surround the throne.**

**Chorus:**

**We're marching to Zion,  
Beautiful, beautiful Zion;  
We're marching upward to Zion,  
The beautiful city of God.**

**2. Let those refuse to sing  
Who never knew our God;  
But children of the heavenly King,  
But children of the heavenly King  
May speak their joys abroad,  
May speak their joys abroad.**

**(Chorus)**

**3. Then let our songs abound,  
And ev'ry tear be dry;  
We're marching through Immanuel's ground,  
We're marching through Immanuel's ground  
To fairer worlds on high,  
To fairer worlds on high.**

**(Chorus)**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

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Remember to set your clocks forward next Sunday for daylight savings time!

### ***Serving at Epiphany this week . . .***

Ushers: Jimmy and Betty Weldon  
Altar Guild: Betty Weldon and Pam Van Etten  
Lay Reader: Laura Williams

Chalice Bearer: Lee Borden  
Refreshments: Kathy Haynie  
Stewards: Eddie and Pam Harper

### ***and next . . .***

Ushers: Greg Dubay and Lynne Eady  
Altar Guild: Ann Easley and Laura Williams  
Lay Reader: Lavonne Hart

Chalice Bearer: John Haynie  
Refreshments: Amanda Borden  
Stewards: Maurice and Debra McCord