

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 Psalm Psalm 63:1-8

Deus, Deus meus

- 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.

Said together:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Lesson

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.

Hymn *Before thy throne, O God, we kneel*

H 574

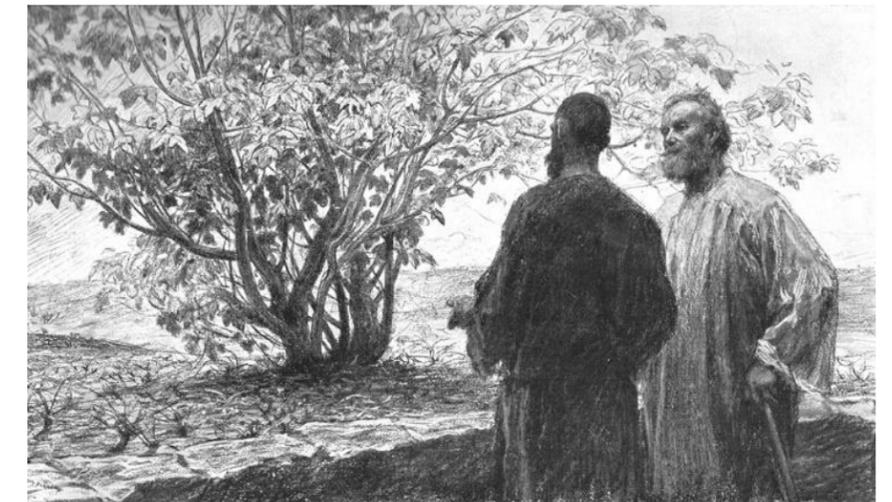
Gospel Lesson

Luke 13:1-9

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.'"



PARABLE OF THE BARREN FIG TREE - EUGENE BURNAND

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

BCP 327

Written about 325 AD, this is the ancient statement of our faith

Prayers of the People

BCP 328

We pray together as the people of God

Confession & Absolution

BCP 331

We confess our sins and are reassured of our pardon

The Peace

We share the joy of the Good News!

The Liturgy of the Eucharist, sometimes called *the Mass*

Presentation of Gifts and Tithes

*O Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
to thee be every prayer addressed,
who art in three-fold Name adored,
from age to age, the only Lord*

from H 143, v. 5

Eucharistic Prayer "I" BCP 333
 -Sanctus Words in BCP, Musical Setting H-S 113
 -The Lord's Prayer Traditional version, found on BCP 336
 -Agnus Dei H-S 157
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.
 -The Prayer of Humble Access BCP 337

The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament
 All baptized Christians, of any tradition, are welcome to receive the sacrament. It is the tradition of this parish that 12 to 14 people at a time receive Communion at the altar rail, at which point all are dismissed together to return to their seats, and another group may move forward to the rail. Gluten free wafers are available to those who request them.

Communion Hymns
Bread of the world in mercy broken H 301
What wondrous love is this H 439
If thou but trust in God to guide thee H 635

Our Prayer after Communion BCP 339
Hymn *Rock of ages, cleft for me* H 685

The Dismissal
 Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.
 People: *Thanks be to God.*

Following our service will be Coffee Hour, hosted today by Norma Mahood-Bay. This is a time for us to have fellowship, share our joys and sorrows, and get to know one another. It is very much an extension of the communal feast we share in the Holy Eucharist. Please join us!

Last Sunday Attendance 56

Participants in Today's Liturgy
Acolytes Rob Merritt Will Puckett
Lectors David Kersey Becky Kersey
Chalicists Rob Merritt Becky Kersey
Altar Guild Patty Richardson, Carol Georgis, Becky Beckett, Stacy Thomas

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers
 Dorene Dimes, Wanda Myers, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Marlene, Lee Puckett, Sr., Alex B., Toni R., Jared Cregger, Kerrigan Farmer, Lindsey Parsley, Daisy Bowman, Ellie Spencer, Mabeline & Elton Robinson, family of Ann

Richardson, Sherry Mitchell, Carrie D., Sharon Cranfill,, George Strike, Levertt T., Bea Paine, Frankie Sparks, Audrey, Denny Arner, Charlotte Woolwine, Lynn Burney, Elizabeth Kane, Marilyn Denney, Judy Anderson, Debbie Wells, Paul Anderson, Ruby, Debbie & Jerry, Ed Arnett, Michelle Parks, Debbie Faber, Ray Ratliff, Shirley Weaver, Will Calfee, Doug Bloomfield

Calendar of Events
 Wednesday – April 10 Union Mission 3:00pm
 Fellowship Evening 6:00pm
 Wednesday – April 3 ECW 5:30pm
 Thursday – April 18 Food Pantry 9:00-11:00am
 Seder Meal and Pot Luck Dinner 5:30pm
 Sunday – April 21 Easter Reception in Library after church
 Wednesday – April 27 Union Mission Dinner Prep. 4:30pm
 Fellowship Outing 5:30pm

Announcements:
Building and Grounds Committee: If you are interested in the care and preservation of our beautiful property please consider volunteering for this important committee. A sign-up sheet is located in the narthex.

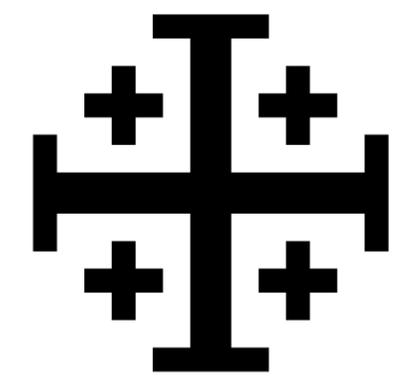
Lent Madness!: Are you ready to have so much fun in Lent you should feel bad about it? Learn about the saints and the whims of a popularity contest as we vote for our favorites until only one is left. Who will win the Golden Halo this year? Pick up your materials in the Narthex!

Prayer List: The prayer list will be reset on the first Sunday of April. All names you would like to remain on the prayer list should be resubmitted to the church office.

Fellowship Outing: Please join us as we gather for an evening of fellowship in the private room (upstairs) of Portabella's Restaurant in downtown Bluefield on Wednesday, March 27, at 5:30 pm. We will order from the menu for this "dutch treat" outing. Friends are, as always, welcomed and encouraged.

Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed: If you are interested in providing refreshments, please sign up in the coffee area.

Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish
 The Rev. Chad Slater Rector
 Ms. Emma Bennett Parish Administrator
 Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr. Organist & Choirmaster
 Mrs. Vanessa Hall Sexton
 Mrs. Becky Beckett Senior Warden
 Mr. Tom Coughlan Junior Warden



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March 24, 2019 The Third Sunday in Lent

Welcome to this Place of Prayer

If you are new or visiting this congregation for the first time we invite you to fill out a Visitor's Card (found on the rack in front of you) and place it in the collect plate as it is passed. We are honored you have chosen to worship with us today and hope that you will continue your faith journey here.

This bulletin will help guide you through today's service. The abbreviation "H" stands for "Hymnal." This is the larger red book located on the shelf in front of you. That music noted as "H-S" followed by a number is service music, and is found in the very first pages of the Hymnal. "BCP" is our abbreviation for "Book of Common Prayer," which is the smaller red book.

About our worship in Lent: During this holy season we will make use of some of the more traditional practices of the church. This will include the use of Rite I—the Elizabethan liturgy—and the reorientation of our space, *ad orientem*—where both the clergy and the congregation face the same direction during worship. It is our hope that this change will allow us to reflect on our own preferences and meaning behind them.

The Liturgy of the Word

Hymn *Forty days and forty nights* H 150

The Service Begins BCP 323

The Trisagion (words are in the BCP, musical setting is H-S 102)

The Collect *Our collective prayer for the day.*
 Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of 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 liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*