

### 3-23-25 Third Sunday in Lent

Opening Hymn

*Amazing Grace*

#671

1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

3 The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures; he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

4 Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

*Celebrant:* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People:* **His mercy endures for ever.**

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."

*Mark 12:29-31*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence*

**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.**

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **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 and protect us outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which 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

*Introduction: Today's reading from Exodus is in two parts. The first half is the call of Moses when he saw the burning bush. It reminds us that God calls us each by name and sometimes in surprising circumstances.*

A reading from Exodus

*Exodus 3:1-9*

One day, Moses was taking care of the sheep and goats of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian, and Moses decided to lead them across the desert to Sinai, the holy mountain. There an angel of the Lord appeared to him from a burning bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire, but it was not burning up.

“This is strange!” he said to himself. “I'll go over and see why the bush isn't burning up.” When the Lord saw Moses coming near, he called him by name from the bush, and Moses answered, “Here I am.”

God replied, “Don't come any closer. Take off your sandals — the ground where you are standing is holy. I am the God who was worshiped by your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” Moses was afraid to look at God, and so he hid his face.

The Lord said: I have seen how my people are suffering as slaves in Egypt, and I have heard them beg for my help because of the way they are being mistreated. I feel sorry for them, and I have come down to rescue them from the Egyptians.

I will bring my people out of Egypt into a country where there is a lot of good land, rich with milk and honey. I will give them the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm for today is 63:1-8

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 a fine dinner,

**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.**

*Introduction: This second part of the call of Moses features two questions: Who am I to lead the people, and what is God's name. It reminds us that God calls us to do things that appear beyond our ability.*

A reading from Exodus

Ex 3:9-15

God said: Go to Pharaoh. I am sending you to lead my people out of his country.

But Moses said, "Who am I to go to Pharaoh and lead your people out of Egypt?"

God replied, "I will be with you. And you will know that I am the one who sent you, when you worship me on this mountain after you have led my people out of Egypt."

Moses answered, "I will tell the people of Israel that the God their ancestors worshiped has sent me to them. But what should I say, if they ask me your name?"

God said to Moses, "I Am Who I Am. So say to the Israelites, 'I Am has sent me to you.'" God continued, "Say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever; this is how all generations will remember me.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



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.**

**Gradual Hymn**

*There is a Longing in Our Hearts*

**Refrain: There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to reveal your self to us. There is a longing in our hearts for love we only find in your, our God.**

3 For healing, for wholeness, for new life: hear our prayer. In sickness, in death: be near, hear our prayer, O God. *Refrain*

4 Lord save us, take pity, light in our darkness. We call you, we wait: be near, hear our prayer, O God. *Refrain*

**The Sermon**

The Very Rev. David Marshall

**8:00am Service**

**The Nicene Creed** *Please stand as you are able*

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**

Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and pray boldly as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

The Lord is our light and salvation; the Lord is our strength, of whom shall we be afraid.

**Your kingdom come, your will be done.**



Give us a reverence for the earth as your own creation that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

**Give us today our daily bread.**

Show us your ways, O Lord, and teach us your paths. Guide all the nations in the ways of justice and peace especially in Palestine, Israel and Ukraine. Teach us your paths so that we may see Christ in one another and serve the common good.

**Forgive us our sins.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

**As we forgive those who sin against us.**

As you called Moses, bless us to follow your ways, to rescue the oppressed, care for the sick, and to be content with what we have.

**Save us from the time of trial.**

Jesus was tempted by the evil one for 40 days and the angels tended to him;  
strengthen us to walk the way of Christ in our own day.

**Deliver us from evil.**

We pray for those for whom we love but see no longer.

*Silence*

We pray for those who mourn, may they find peace within you. And we pray that we may join with you and all the saints in the power of your resurrection. **For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

*Celebrant:* Lord God, you have declared that your kingdom is among us. Open our ears to hear it, our voices to proclaim it, and use our hands to serve you. This we pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

### **10:00am Service**

#### **Presentation and Examination of the Candidates for Baptism**

The Candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

*Parents:* We present Roman Thomas Elwood and Amelia Kennedy Elwood to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Will you be responsible for seeing that the children you present are brought up in the Christian faith and life?

*Parents* **I will, with God's help.**

Will you by your prayers and witness help these children to grow into the full stature of Christ?

*Parents* **I will, with God's help.**

Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God? **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God? **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God? **I renounce them.**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior? **I do.**

Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love? **I do.**

Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord? **I do.**

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these children in their life in Christ?

*People* **We will.**

Let us join with Roman and Amelia, who are being bound to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ? **I will, with God's help.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? **I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

**I will, with God's help.**

Let us now pray for Roman and Amelia who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Keep them in the faith of your holy Church.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Send them into the world in witness to your love.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant:* Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

## **Musical Reflection**

We thank you Almighty God for the water of Baptism. Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Roman/Amelia, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Roman/Amelia, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. **Amen.**

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon Roman and Amelia the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## **Greetings, Announcements and Introductions**

**Offertory**    *My Song is Love Unknown*

**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. Amen.**

**The Holy Eucharist Prayer D**

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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 God thanks and praise.**

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise.

Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say,

**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.**

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose, he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all. When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead,



proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

*Celebrant and People*

**We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name. Remember, Lord, your one holy universal and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember those whose needs are great especially: Downs IV, Holden, Kim, Barbara, Maria Christine, Caitlin, Dennis, Angie, Amy Jo, Carling, Michael, Ian, Joan, Diana, Anne, Alyssa, Joe and Denise.

Remember those going through cancer treatments and those in remission, especially, Margaret, Downs III, Victoria, Alex, Connie, Douglas, Frank, Gerta, Lauren, TJ, Cara, Valerie,

Violet, Joan, Nancy, Julie, George and Denise; those under the care of skilled nursing, especially Timothy, Barbara, and Kim; and those who are in hospice care especially Jeanne. Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and 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.**

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

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

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

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

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.

## **Communion Music**

### **Prayer After Communion**

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**

Bow your head before the Lord. Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind.

O God, you made us from the dust of the earth. Now raise us up and help us turn toward you with open hearts, beholding your glory, that by your grace we may receive everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn**      *Oh, Jesus I Have Promised*    #655

1    O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end: be thou for ever near me, my Master and my friend; I shall not fear the battle, if thou art by my side, nor wander from the pathway, if thou wilt be my guide.

2    O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still, above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will; O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control; O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.

3    O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee, that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be; and, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end; O give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend.

## **The Dismissal**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**