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**Third Sunday in Lent (C)**

**Sunday 20 March 2022**

**Episcopal Church of the Holy Apostles**

26238 N HWY 59, Wauconda, IL 60084

*www.holyapostleswauconda.net*

**PLEASE SILENCE YOUR MOBILE DEVICES**

***You are encouraged to look at pictures and videos if presented.***

***They tell the story in a different way than the words in front of you.***

***But the words are important too; feel free to take your bulletins with you.***

**OPENING VOLUNTARY** *(Please be seated)*

**WORDS OF WELCOME** *(Please remain seated)*

**OPENING HYMN** *(Please stand as able)*  H1982, #142



**OPENING SENTENCE** *(Please remain standing)*

**Presider: +** Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

***People: God’s mercy endures for ever.***

**DECALOGUE** *(Please kneel as able, or reverently bow)*

**Presider:** Hear the commandments of God to God’s people: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy.***

**Presider:** You shall not make for yourself any idol.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy.***

**Presider:** You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy.***

**Presider:** Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy*.**

**Presider:** Honor your father and your mother.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy.***

**Presider:** You shall not commit murder.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy*.**

**Presider:** You shall not commit adultery.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy*.**

**Presider:** You shall not steal.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy*.**

**Presider:** You shall not be a false witness.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy*.**

**Presider:** You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy*.**

**CONFESSION** *(Please remain kneeling or bowing)*

**Presider:** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. Let us then confess our sin and seek forgiveness, that we might be cleansed from all unrighteousness.

**Presider:**  Lord Jesus, you have faced temptation; you know how difficult it can be to distinguish between vision and mirage, between truth and falsehood. We confess that we are far too willing to believe deceptive fantasies and counterfeit promises. Lord, help us when *we* are tempted:

***People: And save us when we fall.***

**Presider:** We confess we do not always represent your church well:

when we confuse absence of conflict with the peace of God;

when we equate the shaping of ecclesiastical structures with serving you in the world;

when we imagine that our task is to preserve what *is* rather than to risk what *might be*;

when we behave as though your living presence were a past event rather than a contemporary encounter. Lord, help us when we are tempted to put our faith in religion instead of in you:

***People: And save us when we fall.***

**Presider:** We confess we are sometimes too ignorant, apathetic, lazy, or timid to do your work in the world:

when we think in sound bites, speak without filters, and act without civility instead of accepting the challenge to listen carefully and engage in constructive dialogue;

when we allow ourselves to be consumed with insubstantial matters and blind to issues of substance;  
when we discount the value of our privilege, and claim entitlement when we should acknowledge responsibility;

when we allow clever words and slick spin to cover evil actions. Lord, help us when we are tempted to ‘contract out’ the work of loving and serving in your name:

***People: And save us when we fall.***

**Presider:** We confess that we are eager to pray for ourselves and those close to us, but rarely pray with honesty, sincerity, and intentionality for those who make us uncomfortable or afraid:

for those who are difficult, angry, incommunicative, irrational, or strange to us;

for those whose pain is unbearable and unending;

for those who struggle to survive in emotional or economic wastelands, whose existence is clawed out day by day from the solid rock of overwhelming odds;

for those who suffer through their own folly or through the malice or foolishness of others. Lord, help us when we are tempted to think that we are the only ones worthy of your compassion and grace:

***People: And save us when we fall.***

***All: Lord Jesus, help us when we are tempted to confess our sins of thought, word, and deed with our lips only, and not with our hearts. Help us when we are tempted to claim sorrow and regret while doing nothing to change. Help us when we are tempted to believe that we are not fit to delight in your will, nor worthy to walk in your ways. Help us, Lord. And be with us to the end. Amen.***

**Presider:** Our Lord has promised to abide with us, a ready help in time of need. When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and rescues them from all their troubles. The Lord will help us when we are tempted; and save us when we fall. + By the mercy of God, through the love of Christ, with the power of the Holy Spirit, our sins are forgiven, and we are kept in eternal life.

***People: Amen.***

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**  *(Please be seated)*

**Presider:** The Lord be with you.

***People:*** ***And also with you.***

**Presider:** Let us pray. Living Mystery, whose way is not ours, whose name cannot be bought or sold: lead us from justice without compassion and sacrifice without mercy to a love which nurtures and a grace without price; through Jesus Christ, the true bread.

***People: Amen.***

*(We read from the various biblical translations authorized by our Church. During Lent we will be reading from the New English Bible, 1970)*

**FIRST LESSON** *(Please remain seated)*  Exodus 3:1-15

**Reader:** A reading from Exodus. 3 Now Moses was shepherding the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to the mountain of God, to Horeb. 2The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from within a bush. He looked, and the bush was ablaze with fire, but it was not being consumed! 3So Moses thought, “I will turn aside to see this amazing sight. Why does the bush not burn up?” 4When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to look, God called to him from within the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.” 5God said, “Do not approach any closer! Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” 6He added, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” Then Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. 7The Lord said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt. I have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. 8I have come down to deliver them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up from that land to a land that is both good and spacious, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the region of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. 9And now indeed the cry of the Israelites has come to me, and I have also seen how severely the Egyptians oppress them. 10So now go, and I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” 11Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, or that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” 12He replied, “Surely I will be with you, and this will be the sign to you that I have sent you: When you bring the people out of Egypt, you and they will serve God at this mountain.” 13Moses said to God, “If I go to the Israelites and tell them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’—what should I say to them?” 14God said to Moses, “I AM that I AM.” And he said, “You must say this to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” 15God also said to Moses, “You must say this to the Israelites, ‘The Lord]—the God of your fathers, 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 is my memorial from generation to generation.’ The word of the Lord.

***People: Thanks be to God.***

**RESPONSE** *(Please remain seated and say together in unison)* Psalm 63:1-8

***63 O God, you are my God. I long for you. My soul thirsts for you, my flesh yearns for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.***

***2Yes, in the sanctuary I have seen you, and witnessed your power and splendor.***

***3Because experiencing your loyal love is better than life itself, my lips will praise you.***

***4For this reason I will praise you while I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.***

***5As with choice meat you satisfy my soul. My mouth joyfully praises you, 6whenever I remember you on my bed, and think about you during the nighttime hours.***

***7For you are my deliverer; under your wings I rejoice.***

***8My soul pursues you; your right hand upholds me.***

***9Enemies seek to destroy my life, but they will descend into the depths of the earth.***

***10Each one will be handed over to the sword; their corpses will be eaten by jackals.***

***11But the king will rejoice in God; everyone who takes oaths in his name will boast, for the mouths of those who speak lies will be shut up.***

**SECOND LESSON** *(Please remain seated)*  1 Corinthians 10:1-13

**Reader:** A reading from the first letter to the Corinthians. 10 For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea, 2and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3and all ate the same spiritual food, 4and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they were all drinking from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. 5But God was not pleased with most of them, for they were cut down in the wilderness. 6These things happened as examples for us, so that we will not crave evil things as they did. 7So do not be idolaters, as some of them were. As it is written, “***The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play***.” 8And let us not be immoral, as some of them were, and 23,000 died in a single day. 9And let us not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by snakes. 10And do not complain, as some of them did, and were killed by the destroying angel. 11These things happened to them as examples and were written for our instruction, on whom the ends of the ages have come. 12So let the one who thinks he is standing be careful that he does not fall. 13No trial has overtaken you that is not faced by others. And God is faithful: He will not let you be tried beyond what you are able to bear, but with the trial will also provide a way out so that you may be able to endure it. The word of the Lord.

***People: Thanks be to God.***

**GOSPEL** *(Please stand as able)* Luke 13:1-9

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

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

**Presider:** 13 Now there were some present on that occasion who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. 2He answered them, “Do you think these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered these things? 3No, I tell you! But unless you repent, you will all perish as well! 4Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower in Siloam fell on them, do you think they were worse offenders than all the others who live in Jerusalem? 5No, I tell you! But unless you repent you will all perish as well!” 6Then Jesus told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. 7So he said to the worker who tended the vineyard, ‘For three years now, I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and each time I inspect it I find none. Cut it down! Why should it continue to deplete the soil?’ 8But the worker answered him, ‘Sir, leave it alone this year too, until I dig around it and put fertilizer on it. 9Then if it bears fruit next year, very well, but if not, you can cut it down.’” The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**SERMON** *(Please be seated)* The Rev. M. C. Gillette

*(A brief period of silence follows the sermon)*

**NICENE CREED** *(Please stand as able and say in unison)*

***All: 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***

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** *(Please remain standing)*  Personalized Form I

**Leader:** With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying “Lord, have mercy.”

**Leader:** For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

***People Lord, have mercy.***

**Leader:** For our Bishops, and for all clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

***People: Lord, have mercy.***

**Leader:** For the leaders of the nations, for all in authority, and for all who accept the call to serve, let us pray to the Lord.

***People: Lord, have mercy*.**

**Leader:** For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

***People: Lord, have mercy*.**

**Leader:** For all those who suffer, in particular those on our parish prayer list and those whose names we raise up now, either silently or aloud: \_\_\_\_\_ (*we will keep a 10-second silence*); and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

***People: Lord, have mercy*.**

**Leader:**  For all the blessings in our lives, for those whose birthdays or anniversaries we celebrate this week, especially those whose names we raise up now, either silently or aloud: \_\_\_\_\_ (*we will keep a 10-second silence*); and for all those great gifts for which we are so thankful, let us pray to the Lord.

***People: Lord, have mercy.***

**Leader:** For those beloved departed whose names we raise up now, either silently or aloud: \_\_\_\_\_ (*we will keep a 10-second silence*); for those who died in the course of service to others or at the hands of the unscrupulous; and for all who have died, let us pray to the Lord.

***People: Lord, have mercy*.**

**Leader:** For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

***People: Lord, have mercy.***

**Leader:** That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

***People: Lord, have mercy*.**

**Leader:** In the communion of the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

***People: To you, O Lord our God.***

**Presider:** *(Says this or another Collect)* Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

***People: Amen***

**THE PEACE** (*Please remain standing and greet each other in the name of the Lord)*

**Presider:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***People: And also with you.***

**OFFERTORY SENTENCE** *(Please remain standing*)

**Presider:** *(Gives this or another offertory sentence)* Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** *(Please remain standing)* Rite II, Prayer A

**Presider:**  Like a tent in the wilderness the table of God stands open and ready as a place of sanctuary and safety, of hospitality and healing. So come, all you who are tired and travel-stained, footsore and famished; come with your fellow travelers and find companionship and comfort; for here, Jesus – who knows what it is to wander, watch and wrestle in desert places – waits to meet us and welcome us in, offering us rest and restoration, solace and strength, for the journey still to come.

**Presider:** The Lord be with you.

***People: And also with you.***

**Presider:** Lift up your hearts.

***People: We lift them to the Lord.***

**Presider:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

**Presider:** It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every‑where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. We thank you, desert Mother, for in the valley of dry bones you create hearts of flesh quickened by the Spirit's breath. We thank you, wise Sister, that you walk in cloud and fire with your lost and faithless people. We thank you, Son of Heaven, that you empty yourself of might and glory and set your face towards the fickle crowd, the cruel empire, those faithful only to themselves. We welcome you as God's own fool, whose cross brings to nothing the violence of the world and reveals another wisdom outside the city walls. Therefore, with all who follow your way, with the traders and tax collectors, the soldiers and prostitutes, and all who caught a glimpse of glory in the humanity you shared, we worship God's own holiness revealed in sweat and tears:

**SANCTUS** *(Please remain standing and say together in unison)*

***All: 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.***

**Presider:** 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:

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

**Presider:** 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,

**LORD’S PRAYER** *(Please remain standing and say in unison)*

***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.***

**FRACTION** *(Please remain standing while the Presider breaks the consecrated bread)*

**Presider:** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

***All: have mercy on us.***

**Presider:** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

***All: have mercy on us.***

**Presider:** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

***All: grant us peace.***

**PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS** *(Please remain standing and say together in unison)*

***All: We do not presume to come to this your Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your Table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.***

**Presider:**  **↑**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.

*(Please follow the Presider’s instructions for Communion)*

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER** *(Please stand and say together in unison)*

***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.***

**PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS** *(Please be seated)*

**SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE** *(Please stand as able)*

**Presider:**  Bow down before the Lord. Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ our Lord.  ***People: Amen.***

**CLOSING HYMN** *(Please remain standing)* H1982, #147



**DISMISSAL** *(Please remain standing)*

**Presider:** Our Worship is over – our Service now begins. Let us go forth into the world empowered by the Holy Spirit to do what we have been ordained to do.

***People: Thanks be to God.***

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

**Cover Image:** https://parables101.com/2021/11/16/the-parable-of-the-barren-fig-tree-34/

**Confession:** Based on ‘Vision And Mirage,’ Falla, ed., Be Our Freedom Lord: Responsive Prayers And Readings For Common Worship

**Collect and Eucharistic Preface:** Prayers For An Inclusive Church, Steven Shakespeare

**Invitation To Communion:** From Walking The Wilderness, Iona, Wild Goose