

**Morning Prayer**  
**Wednesday, March 15, 2023**

**Opening Sentence:** I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1

**Confession:**

Let us confess our sins to God.

**God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

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

Leader: Lord, open our lips.

People: **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

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

**The Venite**

Antiphon: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: **Come let us adore him.**

**Come, let us sing to the Lord; \* let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.**

**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving \* and raise to the Lord a shout with psalms.**

**For you are a great God; \* you are great above all gods.**

**In your hand are the caverns of the earth, \* and the heights of the hills are yours also.**

**The sea is yours, for you made it, \* and your hands have molded the dry land.**

**Come, let us bow down and bend the knee, \* and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

**For you are our God, and we are the people of your pasture and the sheep of your hand. \***

**Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!**

Antiphon: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: **Come let us adore him.**

**Psalm 119:97-104**

**97 Oh, how I love your law! \***

**all the day long it is in my mind.**

**98 Your commandment has made me wiser than my enemies, \***

**and it is always with me.**

**99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, \***

**for your decrees are my study.**

**100 I am wiser than the elders, \***

**because I observe your commandments.**

**101 I restrain my feet from every evil way, \***

**that I may keep your word.**

**102 I do not shrink from your judgments, \***

**because you yourself have taught me.**

**103 How sweet are your words to my taste! \***

**they are sweeter than honey to my mouth.**

**104 Through your commandments I gain understanding; \***

**therefore I hate every lying way.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: \***

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be; world without end. Amen.**

## The Lessons

### The First Reading: Jeremiah 8:18—9:6

My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick. Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land: ‘Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her?’ (‘Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?’) ‘The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.’ For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored? O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people! O that I had in the desert a traveler’s lodging-place, that I might leave my people and go away from them! For they are all adulterers, a band of traitors. They bend their tongues like bows; they have grown strong in the land for falsehood, and not for truth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they do not know me, says the Lord. Beware of your neighbors and put no trust in any of your kin; for all your kin are supplanters, and every neighbor goes around like a slanderer. They all deceive their neighbors, and no one speaks the truth; they have taught their tongues to speak lies; they commit iniquity and are too weary to repent. Oppression upon oppression, deceit upon deceit! They refuse to know me, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

### Canticle: *A Song of Praise*

**Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; \***

**you are worthy of praise; glory to you.**

**Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; \***

**we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

**Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; \***

**on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.**

**Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; \***

**we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

**Glory to you, beholding the depths; \***

**in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.**

**Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; \***

**we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \***

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### The Gospel Reading: John 5:1-8

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.’ Then the Pharisees said to him, ‘You are testifying on your own behalf; your testimony is not valid.’ Jesus answered, ‘Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid because I know where I have come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. You judge by human standards; I judge no one. Yet even if I do judge, my judgement is valid; for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. In your law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is valid. I testify on my own behalf, and the Father who sent me testifies on my behalf.’ Then they said to him, ‘Where is your Father?’ Jesus answered, ‘You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.’ He spoke these words while he was teaching in the treasury of the temple, but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

### The Apostles' Creed *(read in unison)*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**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 that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### The Suffrages

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

**Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

Day by day we bless you;

**We praise your Name for ever.**

Lord, keep us from all sin today;

**Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, show us your love and mercy;

**For we put our trust in you.**

In you, Lord, is our hope;

**And we shall never hope in vain.**

### The Collect: The Third Sunday in Lent

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.**

### A Collect for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

### For our Country

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech you that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of your favor and glad to do your will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion us into one united people. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in your Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to your law, we may show forth your praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in you to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Concluding Sentence:

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20,21*