

First Sunday of Lent

March 6th

Collect

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 91:1-11

1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,

**2 Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold,
my God, in whom I put my trust.'**

3 For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence.

**4 He shall cover you with his wings
and you shall be safe under his feathers;
his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.**

5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night,
nor of the arrow that flies by day;

**6 Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.**

7 Though a thousand fall at your side
and ten thousand at your right hand,
yet it shall not come near you.

**8 Your eyes have only to behold
to see the reward of the wicked.**

9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge
and the Most High your stronghold,

**10 There shall no evil happen to you,
neither shall any plague come near your tent.**

11 For he shall give his angels charge over you,
to keep you in all your ways.

Reading: Luke 4:1-13

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' ⁴ Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."' "

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' ⁸ Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' "

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", ¹¹ and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' "

¹² Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Second Sunday of Lent

March 13th

Collect

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 27

1. The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?
2 When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.
3 Though a host encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid, and though there rise up war against me, yet will I put my trust in him.
4 One thing have I asked of the Lord and that alone I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
5 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord and to seek his will in his temple.
6 For in the day of trouble he shall hide me in his shelter; in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me and set me high upon a rock.
7 And now shall he lift up my head above my enemies round about me;
8 Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness; I will sing and make music to the Lord.
9 Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy upon me and answer me.
10 My heart tells of your word, 'Seek my face.' Your face, Lord, will I seek.
11 Hide not your face from me, nor cast your servant away in displeasure.
12 You have been my helper; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.
13 Though my father and my mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.
14 Teach me your way, O Lord; lead me on a level path, because of those who lie in wait for me.
15 Deliver me not into the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen up against me, and those who breathe out violence.
16 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

17 Wait for the Lord; be strong and he shall comfort your heart; wait patiently for the Lord.

Reading: Luke 13:31-35

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' ³² He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work." ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem.'" ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Third Sunday of Lent March 20th

Collect

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 63:1-9

1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul is athirst for you.
2 My flesh also faints for you,
as in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.

3 So would I gaze upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.
4 Your loving-kindness is better than life itself
and so my lips shall praise you.
5 I will bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.
6 My soul shall be satisfied, as with marrow and fatness,
and my mouth shall praise you with joyful lips,
7 When I remember you upon my bed
and meditate on you in the watches of the night.
8 For you have been my helper
and under the shadow of your wings will I rejoice.
9 My soul clings to you;
your right hand shall hold me fast.

Reading: Luke 13:1-9

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?' ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ 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? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

⁶ 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. ⁷ 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?" ⁸ He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 27th

Collect

Merciful Lord,
you know our struggle to serve you:
when sin spoils our lives
and overshadows our hearts,
come to our aid
and turn us back to you again;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 32

1 Happy the one whose transgression is forgiven,
and whose sin is covered.
2 Happy the one to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile.
3 For I held my tongue;
my bones wasted away
through my groaning all the day long.
4 Your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up like the drought in summer.
5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and my iniquity I did not hide.
6 I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,'
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.
7 Therefore let all the faithful make their prayers to you
in time of trouble;
in the great water flood, it shall not reach them.
8 You are a place for me to hide in;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with songs of deliverance.
9 'I will instruct you and teach you
in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.

10 'Be not like horse and mule which have no understanding; whose mouths must be held with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.'

11 Great tribulations remain for the wicked, but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Reading: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

¹ Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'³ So he told them this parable:

¹¹ 'There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with ^[c] the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father.

But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you;

I am no longer worthy to be called your son."^[d] ²² But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²

⁹ But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" ³¹ Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."''

Fifth Sunday of Lent April 3rd

Collect

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 126

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

**2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter
and our tongue with songs of joy.**

3 Then said they among the nations,
'The Lord has done great things for them.'

**4 The Lord has indeed done great things for us,
and therefore we rejoiced.**

5 Restore again our fortunes, O Lord,
as the river beds of the desert.

**6 Those who sow in tears
shall reap with songs of joy.**

7 Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed,
will come back with shouts of joy, bearing their sheaves with them.

Reading: John 12:1-8

1. Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 2 There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. 3 Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 5 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' 6 (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) 7 Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. 8 You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'