

**Christ Episcopal Church
Norwalk, Connecticut
Third Sunday in Lent
March 23, 2025**

Morning Prayer: Rite II
Lent Season

(BCP 75-102)

BCP 76

*Officiant: Rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.
Joel 2:13*

Confession BCP 79

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor

Officiant and People:
(All kneeling, if possible)

**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.**

Officiant and People: 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.

Opening Versicle
All stand

BCP 80

Officiant: Lord open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People:

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.

Officiant : The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

Response: Come let us adore him.

Jubilate *Psalm 100*

BCP 82

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *

serve the Lord with gladness

and come before his presence with a song

Know this: The Lord himself is God; *

he himself has made us, and we are his;

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;

go into his courts with praise; *

give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;

his mercy is everlasting; *

and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

The Lessons

A Reading From 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 63:1-8

- 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.

Epistle

A Reading from 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Canticle 13 A Song of Praise *Benedictus es, Domine*
Read By Half Verse

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, seated between the Cherubim; *

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.

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him 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.’”

Officiant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Apostles Creed

Officiant & People Together, Standing

BCP 96

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

The Prayers of the People Form III
Standing or kneeling

BCP 387

Officiant: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

Response: *That we all may be one.*

Officiant: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

Response: *That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

Officiant: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

Response: *That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

Officiant: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world:

Response: *That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Officiant: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

Response: *That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Officiant: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

Response: *That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Officiant: Give to the departed eternal rest;

Response: *Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Officiant: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy:

Response: *May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. (silence)

Especially for: Sandy, Suzanne, Joan, Ron, Blaize, Shannon, Sarah, Norma, Kelly, Albert, Bruce, Heath, Alan, Franco, Maria, Graham, Stephen, Mary, Stephen, Ray, Meg, Linda, Irene, Barbara, Brent, Audrey, Sindy, Ruth, Dave, Kim, Chris, Tracy and Ben.

ECCT CYCLE OF PRAYER: With the Episcopal Church of Connecticut, today we pray for:

St. Michael's, Litchfield; St. Andrew's, Madison; St. Andrew's, Marble Dale

ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER: Together with the Anglican Communion throughout the world, today we pray for:

Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jeff Hughes by the Christ Church Parish Family.

VIGIL LIGHT: The vigil light burns this week for those affected by the tornadoes and wildfires across the United States.

Suffrages

Officiant says V, People say R

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. And grant us your salvation.

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. Let your people sing with joy.

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. For only in you can we live in safety.

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

R. Your saving health among all nations.

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: 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
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*

The Collect of the Day

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.

The General Thanksgiving Officiant and People (Read in Unison)

BCP 101

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

BCP 102

Officiant: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen

Dismissal

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

WHAT'S NEW AT CCEN?

From the Women's Group:

We still need donations for our Angel Food Pantry. Looking in particular for hygiene products such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and still need the typical non perishable food items, such as rice, evaporated milk, pasta, sauce, canned fruit and vegetables and tuna, etc. We have been supplying people in need that have contacted us and appreciate all your donations which allows us to help the community. If you know of someone in need, please contact Lisa Helwig in the church office at 203-866-7442 or at secretaryccen@gmail.com

From the Altar Guild:

As Lent begins the altar guild shifts to concentrate on palms for Palm Sunday and Easter flower orders and memorials. Please let us know if you would like flowers in memory of loved ones on the altar for Easter. Orders have already gone in for palms and we will soon place orders for Easter flowers. We rely wholly on contributions from you to make our church beautiful for Easter and appreciate all the help you have given us in the past and look forward to your help again. You can either email Lisa at secretaryccen@gmail.com with your message or fill out the form in the front of the church and give to Lisa/place in the offering plate.

BOOK BUNCH:

The April selection is How To Read A Book by Monica Wood and we are planning to meet on April 16.

THE CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH FAMILY WELCOMES YOU!

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Vestry

Liz Conti Senior Warden, Ruth Lovallo Junior Warden

Debbie Ross Treasurer. George Helwig Clerk of the Vestry

Barbara Judson Vestry Member, Kim Harris Vestry Member

Organist: Betty Belcher

What is the mission of the Church?

The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. *Book of Common Prayer, Page 855*