



St. Luke's Episcopal Church – Stephenville, TX
The Third Sunday in Lent – Year C
In Person & Virtual Service – Facebook Live, YouTube
March 23rd, 2025
8:00 am & 10:00 am

Coffee Hour to follow at 11:00

To All Who Are Joyful And Thankful, To All Who Mourn And Need Comfort
To All Who Are Weary And Need Rest, To All Who Are Friendless And Wish Friendship
To All Who Pray And Who Do Not But Ought, To All Who Sin And Need A Savior.
And To Whoever Will, The Church Opens Wide The Door
And In The Name Of Christ, The Lord Says Welcome.

The Processional Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #332 O God unseen, yet ever near (to tune of 615)

- 1 O God, unseen yet ever near,
thy presence may we feel;
and thus inspired with holy fear,
before thine altar kneel.
- 2 Here may thy faithful people know
the blessings of thy love,
the streams that through the desert flow,
the manna from above.
- 3 We come, obedient to thy word,
to feast on heavenly food:
our meat the Body of the Lord,
our drink his precious Blood.
- 4 Thus may we all thy word obey,
for we, O God, are thine;
and go rejoicing on our way,
renewed with strength divine.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;
People **His mercy endures for ever.**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Kyrie

The Hymnal 1982- #90 Lord have mercy upon us

In unison

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Each Kyrie may be sung thrice 743

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

People The Lord be with you.
Celebrant **And also with you.**
Let us pray.

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 Readings

All are seated.

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."

People The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Psalm 63: 1-8 *Deus, Deus meus* (Read in unison)

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.

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.

People

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #392 Come we that love the Lord (to tune of 411)

- 1 Come, we that love the Lord
And let our joys be known;
Join in a song with sweet accord
And thus surround the throne.

Hosanna, hosanna! Rejoice, give thanks and sing.
- 2 Let those refuse to sing
that never knew our God;
But children of the heavenly King
may speak their joys abroad.

Hosanna, hosanna! Rejoice, give thanks and sing.
- 3 The heirs of grace have found
glory begun below;
celestial fruits on earthly ground
from faith and hope may grow.

Hosanna, hosanna! Rejoice, give thanks and sing.
- 4 Then let our song abound
and let our tears be dry;
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground
to fairer worlds on high.

Hosanna, hosanna! Rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Then, all standing, as are able, the Celebrant reads the Gospel, first saying

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

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus 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.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

A brief time of reflection will follow the Sermon

The Nicene Creed

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: Form VI

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean, our presiding Bishop, and Andy, Kai, Brian, Hector and Jeff; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. (Insert St. Luke's prayer list)

Silence

The people may add their own petitions

Celebrant and People

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may the peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Offertory

The Celebrant says to the people

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

*If you would like to give to St. Luke's, you can place money in the offering plate at the Service or you can
Text to give to (254) 282-0706, then enter amount (ex. \$50),
you can also give online at <https://stlukesstephenville.breezechms.com/give/online>
or you can mail your offering to **St. Luke's, PO Box 2506, Stephenville, TX 76401***

The Offertory Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #685 Rock of ages

The Doxology

*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 Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and sings or says

	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	It is right to give him thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

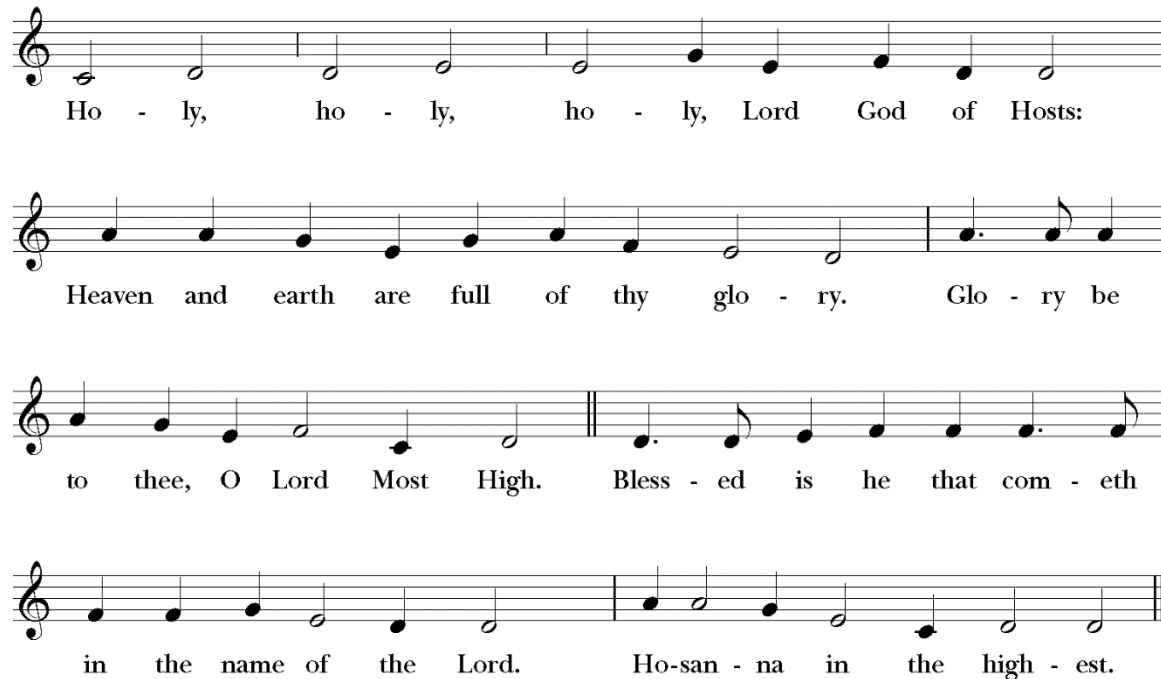
By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Celebrant and People

Sanctus

Hymnal 1982- #S113



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo - ry be
to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth
in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it, and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

The Celebrant and the people

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and Lord God of our Mothers; God of Sarah, Hagar, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

The Celebrant and the people

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **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.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Agnus Dei

The Hymnal 1982 - #S157 O Lamb of God

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the
sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the
sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way 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

Concerning Holy Communion

“This the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.

It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more.



*So come, you who have much faith, and you who have little,
you who have been here often, and you who have not been here long,
you who have tried to follow, and you who have failed.*



Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.

It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.”

Communion Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #336 Come with us, O bless'd Jesus

After Communion, the Celebrant says
Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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.

Blessing

You have to do the right thing. It may not be in your power, may not be in your time, that there'll be any fruit. But that doesn't mean you stop doing the right thing. You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no result. And may the life-giving, liberating, and loving blessing of God be with you today and always. *Adapted from the words of Gandhi*

Processional

The Hymnal 1982 #344 Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing

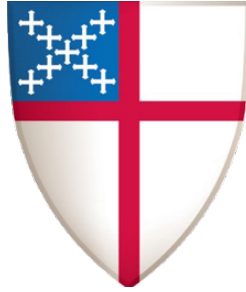
The Celebrant dismisses

Let us bless the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

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From the Calendar of the Saints

March 23 Gregory the Illuminator *Bishop and Missionary of Armenia, c. 332*

Armenia was the first nation-state to become officially Christian, before Emperor Constantine's conversion. Through Gregory's successful mission to Armenia's king, a precedent was set for the later widespread adoption of the faith.

March 25 The Annunciation of Our Lord

This feast commemorates how God made known to a young Jewish woman that she was to be the mother of God's Son, and how Mary accepted her vocation with perfect conformity of will. The event has become a major theme in Christian art, East and West.

March 27 Charles Henry Brent *Bishop of the Philippines, and of Western New York, 1929*

A crusader against the opium traffic in the Philippines and Asia, Bishop Brent was also Senior Chaplain to the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I. The central focus of his life and ministry was the cause of Christian unity.

March 29 John Keble *Priest, 1866*

A poet as well as a priest, Keble wrote an influential cycle of poems on the Church Year. One of his sermons became the spark that ignited the Oxford Movement, a call to the church to return to its sacramental heritage.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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Clergy

The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche – St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Assisting Clergy

The Rev. Leslie Guinn

Staff

Duncan McMahan – Organist
Gail Johnson & Kelly Barbee – Altar Guild Directresses
Mackenzie Campbell-Furtick – ECM Missioner
Lindsey Hughes – Parish Administrator
Neely Carter- Vestry Secretary
Emma Gomez- Technology Minister

Vestry

Term Ending 2025- Gail Johnson & Karl Aho
Term Ending 2026 – Kelly Barbee, Malcolm Cross, & Ian Wilson
Term Ending 2027 – Doug McLemore & Allison Haynes

