

St. Luke's Episcopal Church – Altoona, PA

Evening Prayer for the Eve of the Fourth Sunday in Lent

Saturday, March 14, 2026

5:30 PM Eastern

Rite 2

Yours is the day, O God, yours also the night; you established the moon and the sun. You fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter.

Psalm 74:15,16

Confession of Sin

BCP, Page 116

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

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

The Invitatory and Psalter

BCP, Page 117

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

*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.*

O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron*

BCP, Page 118

*O gracious light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!*

*Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

*You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.*

Psalm 136 *Confitemini*

- ¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
- ² *Give thanks to the God of gods, **
for his mercy endures for ever.
- ³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
- ⁴ *Who only does great wonders, **
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ⁵ Who by wisdom made the heavens, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ⁶ *Who spread out the earth upon the waters, **
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ⁷ Who created great lights, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ⁸ *The sun to rule the day, **
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ⁹ The moon and the stars to govern the night, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
- ¹⁰ *Who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, **
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ¹¹ And brought out Israel from among them, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ¹² *With a mighty hand and a stretched-out arm, **
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ¹³ Who divided the Red Sea in two, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ¹⁴ *And made Israel to pass through the midst of it, **
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ¹⁵ But swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ¹⁶ *Who led his people through the wilderness, **
for his mercy endures for ever.
- ¹⁷ Who struck down great kings, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ¹⁸ *And slew mighty kings, **
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ¹⁹ Sihon, king of the Amorites, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ²⁰ *And Og, the king of Bashan, **
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ²¹ And gave away their lands for an inheritance, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ²² *An inheritance for Israel his servant, **
for his mercy endures for ever.

²³ Who remembered us in our low estate, *
for his mercy endures for ever;

²⁴ *And delivered us from our enemies, **
for his mercy endures for ever;

²⁵ Who gives food to all creatures, *
for his mercy endures for ever.

²⁶ *Give thanks to the God of heaven, **
for his mercy endures 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 for ever. Amen.*

The Lessons

A Reading from 1 Corinthians.

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.

Here ends the lesson.

O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven, *
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
and of all their righteous offspring:
You made the heavens and the earth, *
with all their vast array.
All things quake with fear at your presence; *
they tremble because of your power.
But your merciful promise is beyond all measure; *
It surpasses all that our minds can fathom.
O Lord, you are full of compassion, *
long-suffering, and abounding in mercy.
You hold back your hand; *
you do not punish as we deserve.
In your great goodness, Lord,
you have promised forgiveness to sinners, *
that they may repent of their sin and be saved.
And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart, *
and make my appeal, sure of your gracious goodness.
I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, *
and I know my wickedness only too well.
Therefore, I make this prayer to you: *
Forgive me, Lord, forgive me.
Do not let me perish in my sin, *
Nor condemn me to the depths of the earth,
For you, O Lord, are the God of those who repent, *
and in me you will show forth your goodness.
Unworthy as I am, you will save me,
in accordance with your great mercy, *
and I will praise you without ceasing all the days of my life.
For all the powers of heaven sing your praises, *
and yours is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.

A Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew.

Matthew 7:1-23

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?' He said to them, 'Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

“This people honours me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.”

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.’

Then he said to them, ‘You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition! For Moses said, “Honour your father and your mother”; and, “Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.” But you say that if anyone tells father or mother, “Whatever support you might have had from me is Corban” (that is, an offering to God)— then you no longer permit doing anything for a father or mother, thus making void the word of God through your tradition that you have handed on. And you do many things like this.’

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, ‘Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.’

When he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. He said to them, ‘Then do you also fail to understand? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?’ (Thus he declared all foods clean.) And he said, ‘It is what comes out of a person that defiles. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.’ *Here ends the lesson.*

The Song of Mary Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

BCP, pages 91-92

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children 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 for ever. Amen.*

The Apostles' Creed

BCP, Page 120

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.

The Prayers

BCP, Page 121

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

Suffrages B

BCP, Page 122

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear,
and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of St. Luke and all your saints,
entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,

We entreat you, O Lord.

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.*

Collect for Saturdays

O God, the source of eternal light: Shed forth your unending day upon us who watch for you, that our lips may praise you, our lives may bless you, and our worship on the morrow give you glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for Peace

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. *Amen.*

Collect for the Work of Dismantling Racism

Loving God, you call us to become a Beloved Community united in love for all. Bless our Diocese as we engage in the work of dismantling racism. Guide those who are charged in leading this work and inspire us all with your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name we pray. *Amen.*

Prayer for Mission

God of wisdom and love, in whom we find our joy: Help us to listen for your Word and to discern your way forward for our Church. Give us the insight to hold on to what is true, the courage to explore new ideas, and the boldness to create with you. Let us be Shaped by Faith for your mission; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

The General Thanksgiving

BCP, page 125

*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.*

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.*

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Romans 15:13*

Source: <http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/2lent3.htm>



To facilitate stewardship, the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania has launched an online giving resource. If you choose to make a contribution, the Diocese will transfer the funds you give to your designated church. Simply use the link below and select your church (St. Luke's Altoona is at the top of the list) and follow the prompts to set up your one-time or recurring gift.

<https://diocesecpa.org/stewardship>



Source: <https://biblepic.com/mark/12-30.htm>