

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God of our fathers and mothers, feed us with spiritual food; refresh us with spiritual drink. Preserve us, with all your saints, forever. (*silence*)

God, your loving-kindness is better than life itself; **we bless you and we praise you.**

*Celebrant:* O God, who from the family of thy servant David didst raise up Joseph to be the guardian of thy incarnate Son and the spouse of his virgin mother: Give us grace to imitate his uprightness of life and his obedience to thy commands; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**The Peace**

BCP 332

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

*Offertory*

**The Great Thanksgiving : Eucharistic Prayer I**

Lord's Prayer

BCP 333

**The Breaking of the Bread**

BCP 336

*All baptized Christians are invited to receive communion. Those not receiving communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing; simply signify by crossing your arms over your chest.*

BCP 337

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 339

**Blessing and Dismissal**

### Altar Guild

Chris Howison, Tracey Riley, Catherine Harcus, Anna Crockett

### AV Team

Keith Gibson, Patrick McGuire, Mary Price,  
Tim Price, Joanne Robblee, Jim White, Sharon White

### Flower Guild

Elizabeth Boetsch, Claudia Ellis, Gail Dick, Rene Glidden, Catherine Harcus,  
Elizabeth Harralson, Peggy Riethmiller, Joy Harris, Kathy Kozak

### Readers & Chalicists

Hank Humphreys, Lu Dooley, Diana Kenney, Gail Dickerson

### Ushers

Holt Merchant, Paul Robblee, Joanne Robblee



Your financial support helps us participate in God's work in the world. If you would like to contribute to the offering, we invite you to place your donation in the offering plate, or scan the code to the left with your phone to give electronically.

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# GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Lexington Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

March 20, 2022

Third Sunday in Lent

8:00 a.m.

Announcements - Today: **Parish Hall, 9:15** – Chris Doyle, the new Executive Director at Boys Home will visit. Come and meet Chris and find out more about his vision for the Boys Home.

Upcoming: **March 23 - 7 pm - ZOOM only. Pilgrimage: Spiritual Journeys that Touch the Soul.** Please join us for this week's program. William McCorkle will be speaking about his time at Iona. These programs are recorded and posted on Grace's YouTube channel.

Visit <https://www.graceepiscopallexington.org/lent-resources/> for more Lenten Resources.

**The Practice of Prayer—Lenten offering from The Diocese of Southwestern Virginia**

The Diocese of Southwestern Virginia will explore the practice of prayer during Lent on Wednesday evenings on Zoom. You will experience and engage in a variety of types of prayer, and guest speakers will guide us in some of these practices. Each evening will end with Compline. Go to dioswva.org to read more & register.

**March 27**—The Scriptures and Homosexuality, Parish Hall, 9:15am, Rev. Tuck Bowerfind.

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE I

### THE WORD OF GOD

#### A Penitential Order

**The Decalogue** (*kneeling as able*)

**Confession**

**Kyrie Eleison**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

#### Collect of the Day

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of 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 liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### The Lessons

*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."

**Psalm 63:1-8**

BCP 670

*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.

*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 Sermon**

**The Nicene Creed**

**Prayers of the People**

*Please pray for the wider Church and intercessions requested by our Congregants:*

*Pray for The Anglican Communion; The Most Rev. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; Standing Committee of the Diocese of Haiti as they search for their new Bishop; the Diocese of Leeds and their Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Nick Baines; the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and their Archbishop, The Most Rev. Justin Badi Arama; the Episcopal Church in the United States of America and our Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev. Michael B Curry; the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, and our Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Mark Bourlakas.*

*Pray today for the Lay Employees and Volunteers of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia.*

*Pray for Bob and Lynda DeMaria, Peter Fyfe, Lucy Moise, Bob Crewdson, David Burford, Mary Jane Hubbard, Glen Jones, Don Ellis, Don & Robyn Fleming (uncles of Pat McGuire), Alice Furgerson, Julie Jennings, Mary Froehlich, Hunter Headings, Betty Swope, Bill Kozak, Eli Bradley, Richard Jones, Sue Denson, Sally Capets, Diana Kenney, Mary & Scott Hudgins, Helen Head, Kaleb (grandson of Pat & Keith Gibson), Jocelyn Gibson (daughter in law of Pat and Keith Gibson) and those we name aloud or in our hearts.*

*Pray for those who have died, especially, The Rev. Dr. Louis Weil, a liturgical scholar and seminary professor who was one of the primary architects of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer.*

*We pray for an end to violence and for those fleeing Ukraine, and we also pray for Episcopal Relief & Development and other ecumenical agencies working to respond to the current crisis.*

*We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays this week - Polly Lawrence (3/23), Laura Stearns (3/23), Rose Gordon (3/24), Sharon White (3/25) AP Smith (3/26).*

**Celebrant:** Brothers and sisters, our God is faithful. Let us offer our prayers to God, saying, "God, your loving-kindness is better than life itself; we bless you and we praise you."

**Reader:** O God, you are our God; eagerly we seek you; our souls thirst for you, our flesh faints for you, as in a parched and barren land. Refresh your Church, revive your Church with living water. (silence)

God, your loving-kindness is better than life itself; **we bless you and we praise you.**

Faithful God, be the comfort and strength of innocent victims and their families. We pray for all those who die suddenly and unprepared. (silence)

God, your loving-kindness is better than life itself; **we bless you and we praise you.**

Great Mountain God, open our eyes to your presence in the world around us. Set the fire of your presence before us and lead our feet to holy ground. (silence)

God, your loving-kindness is better than life itself; **we bless you and we praise you.**

We pray, O God, for victims of sexual violence and abuse. Deliver them; heal their wounds and scars; restore innocence and the ability to trust. Purify our own hearts that we may honor and respect each other. (silence)

God, your loving-kindness is better than life itself; **we bless you and we praise you.**

O God, you are our helper; you hide us under the mighty shadow of your wings. Defend your children from all adversities which may happen to the body or soul. *You may add your intentions silently or aloud.* (silence)

God, your loving-kindness is better than life itself; **we bless you and we praise you.**

Fr. Tuck

BCP 326