**Nativity Worships**

**First Lent**

**March 9, 2025**

**The Rev. Kirsten Snow Spalding, Presiding**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Prelude  | *Bourbon* | melody attrib. Freeman Lewis ca 1830-40 |
| Opening | At the Name of Jesus | H435 |
| Gradual | Lord, who throughout these forty Days (v1,3 before Gospel; v. 5 after) | H142 |
| Offertory     | If thou but trust in God to guide thee | H 635 |
| Closing | In Christ there is no East or West | H 529 |
| Postlude | *Litanei* | Franz Schubert |

**The Collect**

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**Old Testament**

**Deuteronomy 26:1-11**

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me." You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

**The Psalm**

**Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16**

***Qui habitat***

1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, \*
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.

2 He shall say to the Lord,
"You are my refuge and my stronghold, \*
my God in whom I put my trust."

9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge, \*
and the Most High your habitation,

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

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

12 They shall bear you in their hands, \*
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; \*
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.

14 Because he is bound to me in love,
therefore will I deliver him; \*
I will protect him, because he knows my Name.

15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; \*
I am with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and bring him to honor.

16 With long life will I satisfy him, \*
and show him my salvation.

**The Epistle**

**Romans 10:8b-13**

"The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

**The Gospel**

**Luke 4:1-13**

After his baptism, Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, 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. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 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. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'"

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, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,'

and

'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

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

**The Prayers**

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Gregory of Nyssa, San Francisco, whose feast day is Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa (March 9).

We pray for our parish members: Jamie, Nancy B, Nina A, Marian, Norma, Duane, Amanda, Ruth, Steve K, Dick, Barbara B, Uwe and our families and friends: Myles, David, John, Violet & Aaron, B. Y., Justin, John B, Laura, Tanner, Phil, Greg, Nick, Phoebe, Seanna and Stacy.

We pray for those who have died and those who mourn remembering especially Bill Shepherd, Lisa, Ming Huang, Andrea Georgi, Richie Faber and those who have died in the wars in Israel, Palestine, Ukraine and Sudan and those who have died in the fires in Los Angeles.

**Announcements**

Please respond to the Nativity Survey. It only takes 5 minutes and will be part of Nativity Vestry’s discernment process.

<https://berkeley.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_03wc0mIVNZI69Qa>

Stations of the Cross, Monday evenings at 4:30 throughout Lent.

March 10th. Nativity Book Club. *The Ungrateful Refugee* by Dina Nayeri. Mondays at 5 pm. In the Nativity Kitchen. Everyone is invited to read and discuss this book which challenges us to think about how we understand and speak about immigrants in our community. (3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7)

We will with thanksgiving receive offerings of Nativity pledges and plate today. You can contribute by sending a check to the church or by using the “Give” button on our website, [www.nativityonthehill.org](http://www.nativityonthehill.org).

All who participate in this Holy Eucharist virtually receive the full benefits of the sacrament by coming with the intention of being united with Christ and one another.