**Nativity Worships**

**Third Lent**

**March 23, 2025**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Prelude  | *Serenade* Fr. Jos. Haydn |
| Opening | Eternal Lord of Love, behold your Church | H 149  |
| Gradual | Lord. who throughout these forty day [vv 1, 3 before the Gospel; v. 5 after Gospel] | H 142  |
| Offertory     | O food to pilgrims given | H 309  |
| Closing | What wondrous love is this | H 439  |
| Postlude | *Haywood's Home* from Tunes for Grace, 1997 |

**The Collect**

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.*

**Old Testament: 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.”

**The Psalm 63:1-8 *Deus, Deus meus***

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.

**The Epistle: 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.

**The Gospel: 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 Prayers**

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Episcopal Impact Fund, which works to break the cycle of poverty for families, youth and young adults by creating pathways out of poverty.

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, Stacy, Dorothy, Cheryl and Lucy.

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**

**Stations of the Cross,**Mondays at 4:30 p.m., 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31.

**Easter Festival Choir Rehearsals** 11:20-11:45 at Nativity, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6 and 4/13.

**Who is My Neighbor?**Sunday morning check in. 9:15-9:40 in Rev. Kirsten’s Office. A Nativity/St. Paul’s Task Force will meet each week to pray together and encourage one another as we navigate the anxiety of how new federal government policies will impact
everyone in our community. (3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6)

**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)

The **Street Chaplaincy Wellness Dinner**. Join Nativity volunteers in preparing a dinner for
our neighbors at First Presbyterian Church, downtown San Rafael. April 1, 4:30-7:30 p.m, Cooking, Serving, Clean up shifts available. Contact Rev. Kirsten, kss@well.com.

**Bag Lunches** for St. Vincent’s. Join St. Paul’s bag lunch team in the St. Paul’s kitchen,
assembling sandwiches on the fourth Wednesday of the month (March 12th and March 26th)
4-4:30 p.m. (very quick service). Call Mike Green, mjesgreen@gmail.com.

**Movie Night.** March 30th 5p.m. in the Nativity Kitchen. Join us for a showing of Peace by Chocolate, a dramatic story of a refugee family settling in Canada.

**Red Door Community Garden** boxes available for rent. $50 for a year. Applications due March 23rd. Notifications by March 31st. Rentals April 1, 2025 to March 31st, 2026. For an application, send a note to Church of the Nativity: nativityonthehill@gmail.com.

**Albs for Lectors and Choir Members**If you are a lector, special occasions choir member and may need to wear an alb from the sacristy, please notify Nina Woods or Kathy Schlegel. The remaining albs will be stored upstairs.

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.