

Church of the Divine Love

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 16, 2025 10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Please observe silence Alleluias are omitted during Lent

A Morning Prayer – on insert

A PENITENTIAL ORDER

Opening Acclamation for Lent page 351

The Decalogue page 350

The Confession page 352

THE WORD OF GOD

Kyrie page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18**

Psalm 27

Second Lesson: **Philippians 3:17 – 4:1**

Gospel: **Luke 13:31-35**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze (on insert)

The Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV page 388

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer A	page 361
Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal)	page 362
The Lord's Prayer	page 364
The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer	page 337
The Communion of the People	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace (on insert)	
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Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal	

Sermon Sunday March 16, 2025

Genesis 15: 1-12,17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

The thing that strikes me about Jesus in today's gospel (**Luke 13:31-35**) is his clarity. Jesus is absolutely clear about who he is and the task before him. He is absolutely clear in the choices he is making. And he is absolutely clear that Herod will not stand in his way. As I said last week, it is a clarity that began as he struggled with himself in the wilderness.

What if we lived with that kind of clarity? What if we brought that kind of clarity to our relationships, conflicts, and decisions? What if we engaged the world with that kind of clarity? Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem when Pharisees stop him on the road and say, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He says to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.' "Do you hear the clarity with which he speaks? He doesn't defend or explain himself. He doesn't second guess himself. He doesn't change his mind or turn around. And he doesn't avoid the work or the consequences of the work that are before

him. He has committed himself to “casting our demons and performing cures.” He has “set his face to go to Jerusalem” (Lk 9.51). That is less about his destination and more about his clarity.

I’m not talking about the kind of clarity that gives rise to arrogance, single-mindedness, an unwillingness to listen to others, or the self-assurance that we are always right. I’m talking about the kind of clarity that gives rise to integrity, wholeheartedness, and a vision of life that is connected to something larger than and beyond ourselves. I’m talking about the kind of clarity that fosters honesty and authenticity, strengthens commitment and resolve, promotes wisdom and discernment, and enables us to see beyond our own self-interest. That’s the kind of clarity I want in my life, don’t you? What do you imagine our lives and world would be like if we lived with that kind of clarity? I think it would change our relationships, how we treat each other and ourselves, the way we pray, our priorities, what we do, the decisions we make, and what really matters to us. I think it would enlarge our world, deepen our lives, and open our eyes, ears, and hearts to each other in new ways. It may not eliminate our fears but I think it would show us that some things are more important to us than what we fear.

So, what keeps us from that clarity? I don’t think it’s a matter of needing more information or intelligence. I think it’s a matter of facing the Herod in our lives. Herod is the cataracts on our clarity. I’m talking about Herod as a metaphor for all the things that cloud our clarity. Herod is: The illusion that someone else is in charge of and responsible for our life; The institutions to which we give unquestioning loyalty even after they have betrayed us; The belief that there is some authority out there that knows more and better than us, and if we can just find him or her, we’ll find the answers to our lives and the solutions to our problems; The archaic fears, primal wounds, or chronic guilt that determines and drives our lives; The old messages we continue to serve, fight against, or try to heal; The part in us that just wants to make others happy, gain approval, and meet expectations; The ways in which we overcompensate and try to prove ourselves; The ways in which we are passive, indifferent, or unwilling to show up to our own life; The stuck places in our life where we do the same old things over and over but nothing ever changes; and All the ways in which we avoid ourselves, turn away from our life, and refuse to take responsibility for ourselves.

Herod distorts my seeing and causes me to lose my clarity. When I lose clarity in my life, I lose myself. The world is big and I am not. The world is powerful and I am not. I feel overwhelmed and powerless. I get stuck and act as if I have no choices. The Russian invasion of Ukraine is an example of what I am talking about. How many of us want to help but don’t know what to do? How many of us have felt powerless to make a difference? How many of us have felt guilty when we complain about our life or problems and then look at what the people of Ukraine are going through? I’ve struggled with those things and I suspect you have too. But what if that struggle is about our lack of clarity?

Clarity isn’t about knowing and seeing everything. And it doesn’t mean we have all the answers. It’s

about knowing and seeing ourselves. It's knowing our own heart, our deepest loyalties, and what matters most to us. It's guarding the tender parts of ourselves. It's about seeing clearly our gifts and abilities, and at the same time acknowledging our limitations. When we can gain some of that kind of clarity, we find a bit more of ourselves, direction for our life, and choices before us. And most of the time we know what to do. We sit in silence holding the fear and pain of Ukraine. We support organizations and ministries that are reaching out to the Ukrainian people. We have compassion for ordinary Russian citizens who are bearing the brunt of the world's sanctions. We pray for soft hearts and peace. We invite others into clarity. And we live with hope that darkness cannot overcome the light.

Every Herod in my life is a thief and takes from me my freedom, power, and ability to choose. Every Herod in my life wants to own my life and demands my heart, my deepest loyalties, and my integrity. Every Herod in my life wants me to betray and do violence to myself, and that always ripples out to affect others. That's not how I want to live. And that's not how I want you or this parish to live. I want us to live with the kind of clarity that lets us "go and tell that fox," "Listen," What are your words of clarity that you want that fox to hear? What are the words of clarity you need to hear?

Like Jesus, we are called to be faithful to our calling, even in the face of opposition. We must not be swayed by fear or intimidation, but remain steadfast in our commitment to God's will. Jesus' lament for Jerusalem reminds us of the importance of compassion and empathy. We are called to love those who are lost, to reach out to those who are hurting, and to share the message of God's love with a world that desperately needs it. Who or what in your life today needs your clarity? And who or what are the Herod's you need to confront? What is clouding your clarity? What cataracts do you need to remove?

Luke 13:31-35 is a powerful reminder of Jesus' unwavering love, his divine authority, and his ultimate sacrifice. It challenges us to examine our own hearts, to be faithful to our calling, and to embrace the love and grace that he offers. Let us strive to be like the chicks who gather under the wings of the hen, finding shelter and safety in the loving embrace of our Savior. **Amen.**

***All baptized Christians, regardless of age, are welcome to
receive communion in the Episcopal Church.***

2 LENT

10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

1:00 PM

BROWNIE TROOP

MONDAY	8:00 PM	AA MEETING
TUESDAY	7:00 PM	BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
3 LENT	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS
	11:15 AM	VESTRY MEETING

SUNDAY, MARCH 30TH – BISHOPS VISITATION

LUNCH FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Deb Giordano	Anthony Giordano
Coffee Hour	Janet Croft	Giordanos

SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY – DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Loving God, comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Especially we remember before you:

Barbara Curran	Betty Curley	Jess
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Bob Curley	Steve Curley	Art
Chris Dickson	John Rocco	Deb P.
John Mulligan	Marjorie Guerrier	Lynette
Manetta Family	Robert Hosey	Ryan
Sister Eddie	Bernie Walther	Celeste
Beverly Noel	Phil Ryder	Warren
Anthony Paribello	Dorothy	Del
Donna Amundsen	Kate Jones	Aidan
Sally & Roger	Vincent & Barbara	Ciara
Mary & Family	Wendy	Jan
Nathan Treadwell	Gladys Hadija	Sophia
Michael & Family	Matthew Treasure	Mo
Michelle & Baby	Joseph	Annie
Jerry & Family	Shannon & Family	Donna A.
Christopher	Oitice Family	Kristen

All people and countries suffering from violence, hatred and natural disaster.

The homeless and food insecure.

Help us speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them.

Bring us with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen

To add or make changes to prayer list during the week, email Janet Croft at jmc220@optonline.net.

A Morning Prayer

Father in heaven, I stand ready to receive Your wisdom and guidance. In each decision, big or small, lead me to discern your will and to act accordingly. Help me to understand the depth of Your wisdom, finding guidance in Your word and through prayer. Teach me to be patient as I wait for Your direction, trusting that Your timing is perfect. May I navigate this day with the assurance that Your wisdom is a treasure far greater than any earthly knowledge. Guide my thoughts and actions, that they may be a reflection of Your discernment and love. In Your guidance, I find the path to a life of purpose and peace.

Amen

Hymn to be sung during the consecration:

Father I adore you,
Lay my life before you,
How I love you.

Repeat twice with second verse starting with Jesus

And third verse starting with Spirit.

Prayer for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn

but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that

all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince

of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominions

and glory, now and forever. Amen

