

# *Holy Comforter Episcopal Church*

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 30, 2025 • 10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II

## PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON



*Our Mission*

*“Living Our Faith by Serving God and Others”*

The Reverend Dr. Allen Hill, Rector



PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

*Jerusalem, My Happy Home*

Hymn 620

1 Je - ru - sa - lem, my hap - py home, when  
2 Thy saints are crowned with glo - ry great; they  
3 There Da - vid stands with harp in hand as  
4 Our La - dy sings Mag - ni - fi - cat with  
5 Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - ru - sa - lem, God

1 shall I come to thee? When shall my sor - rows  
2 see God face to face; they tri - umph still, they  
3 mas - ter of the choir: ten thou - sand times would  
4 tune sur - pass - ing sweet, and bless - ed mar - tyr's  
5 grant that I may see thine end - less joy, and

1 have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?  
2 still re - jice in that most hap - py place.;  
3 one be blest who might this mu - sic hear.;  
4 har - mo - ny doth ring in ev - ery street.;  
5 of the same par - ta - ker ev - er be!

Words: F. B. P. (ca. 16th cent.), alt.

Music: *Land of Rest*, American folk hymn; adapt. and harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983)

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### OPENING ACCLAMATION *(standing)*

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins; †  
**People** His mercy endures forever.

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

### CONFESSION OF SIN *(The people kneel, as able)*

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence*

**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.**

*Celebrant*

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

Holy God,  
Holy Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One,  
**Have mercy upon us.**

O - pen the eyes\_\_\_\_ of my heart,\_\_\_\_ Lord,\_\_\_\_

3  
o - pen the eyes\_\_\_\_ of my heart;\_\_\_\_ I want to see You,\_\_\_\_

6  
I want to see You.\_\_\_\_ O - pen the eyes\_\_\_\_ of my heart,\_\_\_\_

10  
\_ Lord,\_\_\_\_ o - pen the eyes\_\_\_\_ of my heart;\_\_\_\_ I want to

13  
see You,\_\_\_\_ I want to see You.\_\_\_\_ To see You

17  
high and lift - ed up,\_\_\_\_ shin - ing in the light of Your glo -

20  
ry.\_\_\_\_ Pour out Your pow'r and love;\_\_\_\_ As we sing

23  
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly.\_\_\_\_

26  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,\_\_\_\_ ho - ly, ho - ly, ho -



- 2 Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and did not conceal my guilt.
- 6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."  
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- 8 You are my hiding-place;  
you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**
- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;  
I will guide you with my eye.
- 10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,  
or else they will not stay near you."**
- 11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.
- 12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**

## THE EPISTLE

## 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

People Thanks be to God.

*Silence-What indeed is God saying?*

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy like the wide-ness of the sea;  
 2 There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven;  
 3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sure of the mind;

there's a kind-ness in his jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.  
 there is no place where earth's fail-ings have such kind - ly judg-ment given.  
 and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.

There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and more gra - ces for the good;  
 There is plen - ti - ful re - demp-tion in the blood that has been shed;  
 If our love were but more faith-ful, we should take him at his word;

there is mer - cy with the Sa - vior; there is heal - ing in his blood.  
 there is joy for all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the Head.  
 and our life would be thanks-giv - ing for the good-ness of the Lord.

Words: Frederick William Faber (1814-1863), alt.

Music: Beecher, John Zundel (1815-1882), alt.



## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

*Deacon* The Lord is a great God, the great King above all Gods. O that today you would listen to his voice and harden not your hearts.

**People** **The Lord is a great God.**

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke.

**People** **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

**People** **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*Silence*

THE NICENE CREED *(Please stand)*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven:**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again**

**in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Leader* In this season of repentance and renewal, let us pray for the concerns of the Church and the world, saying “Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.”

For the whole Church of God, and for all its members: May the Church truly become the unified body of Christ, hearing and living out God’s call in the world. We pray for all baptized Christians in their ministries, for Sean our Presiding Bishop, for Scott our Bishop Assisting, for our Standing Committee, and for all clergy and other ministers.  
Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For our nation and every nation: May all people learn to live together in peace, respecting one another’s differences and autonomy. May all leaders be ever mindful of their responsibilities to their own people and to others in the world. We pray for our President, Congress, Courts, state and local officials, and for all leaders around the world. Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For all those who are in any pain or sorrow: May they come to know your love and care and be brought to wholeness; for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; for the poor, the persecuted, and those in prison; and for those who are lonely, homeless, or hungry. We pray especially for Celeste, Walter, Mae, Cynthia, Herb, Rhonda, Bonnie, Lee, Russell, Marcie, Sterling, Marcie, Jan, Anita, Valerie, Suzy, Mason, Kayleigh, Elizabeth, Virginia, Patsy, Nancy, Sam, Susan, Cay, Pat, Irina & family, Joy, Diane, Josefa, Avri, Vicki, and Frank. Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For all the blessings of this life: May we truly celebrate the life we have been given and our time with one another; for new beginnings, anniversaries, and birthdays, and for all the joys of this life; we thank you for all other thanksgivings we now offer, silently or aloud. Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For all who have died, especially Joseph McCann; pray for his family and Katie Simmons and all who love him. Pray for those whom we love: May those who now live in the joy of God’s presence find their rest in his peace. Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*A brief silence is kept. The Celebrant then says the concluding Collect:*

*Celebrant*

O God, whose desire it is for all people to turn to you and be renewed in your love, grant these prayers in your mercy and according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

## COMFORTING SENTENCE AND THE PEACE *(Standing)*

*Celebrant* Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OFFERTORY

*Celebrant* I appeal to you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

### OFFERTORY HYMN

### *God is For Us*

### CityAlight

#### Verse 1

We won't fear the battle,  
We won't fear the night.  
We will walk the Valley with You by our side.  
You will go before us,  
You will lead the way,  
We have found a refuge only You can save

#### Verse 2

Even when I stumble,  
Even when I fall,  
Even when I turn back, still Your love is sure.  
You will not abandon,  
You will not forsake.  
You will cheer me onward  
with never ending grace.

#### Chorus

Sing with joy now; our God is for us.  
The Father's love is a strong and mighty fortress.  
Raise your voice now, no love is greater.  
Who can stand against us if our God is for us?

#### Bridge

Neither height nor depth can separate us  
Hell and death will not defeat us  
He who gave His Son to free us  
Holds me in His love

# LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A *(Standing)*

### DOXOLOGY



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise  
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye  
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.  
A - men.

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

**People** **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**SANCTUS** (All Sing)

**CLH 628**

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might. Heav'n and earth are full". The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The vocal line is a simple, hymn-like melody with some phrasing slurs.

of Your glo - ry, ho - san - na

in the high - est, ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless'd is He who

comes in the name of the Lord,

ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -

san - na in the high - est.

*People stand or kneel (as able)*

*Celebrant*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. ***Amen.***



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to sing,

Our Fa-ther, who art in hea-ven,  
Hal-lo-wed be thy name! Thy king-dom come, thy will be done, on  
earth as it is in hea-ven: Give us this day our dai-ly bread, and for-  
give us our tres-pas-ses, as we for-give those who tres-pass-against us;  
and lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion, but de-li-ver us from  
e-vil. For thine is the king-dom, and the po-wer and the  
glo-ry, for-e-ver and e-ver!  
A-men!

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Celebrant* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**People** Therefore let us keep the feast.

*Celebrant* We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**People** Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
 have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
 sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
 you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

**People Thanks be to God.**

*All baptized Christian believers are invited to receive Holy Communion. All others are encouraged to come forward to receive a blessing. To receive this option, please cross your arms over your chest in front of the priest.*

1. Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;  
 2. Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;  
 3. Lord Je - sus, think on me, when flows the tem - pest high;  
 4. Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,  
 5. Lord Je - sus, think on me, that I may sing a - bove

from earth-borne pas - sions set me free, and make me pure with - in.  
 through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point Thou the heav'n - ly way.  
 when on doth rush the en - e - my, O Sav - ior be Thou nigh.  
 I may th e - ter - nal bright-ness see, and share Thy joy at last.  
 to Fa - ther, Spir - it, and to Thee the strains of praise and love.

WORDS: Greek poem, Synesius of Cyrene, ca. 430; tr. Allen William Chatfield, 1876

MUSIC: *Southwell*, William Daman, 1579

*Softly and Tenderly*

CLH 303

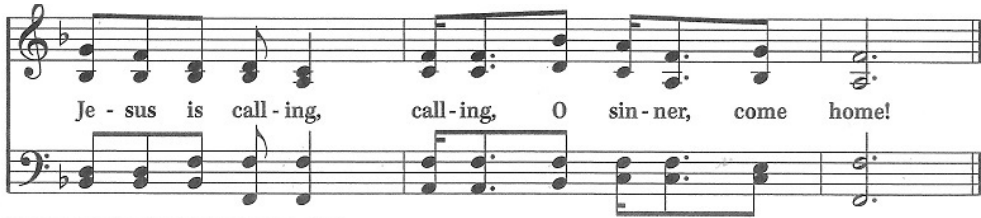
1. Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
 2. Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
 3. Time is now fleet - ing, the mo - ments are pass - ing, pass - ing from  
 4. O for the won - der - ful love He has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me; see, on the por - tals He's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not His mer - cies,  
 you and from me; shad - ows are gath - er - ing, death's night is com - ing,  
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, He has mer - cy and par - don,

*Refrain*

watch - ing for you and for me.  
 mer - cies for you and for me? Come home, come home,  
 com - ing for you and for me. Come home, come home,  
 par - don for you and for me.

ye who are wea - ry, come home; ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



WORDS: Will Lamartine Thompson, 1880

MUSIC: *Thompson*, Will Lamartine Thompson, 1880

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*All stand*)

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

*(Celebrant* In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

**People** We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.)

## THE BLESSING †

1. Guide me, O Thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this  
 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing  
 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might - y; hold me with Thy  
 stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my  
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on

pow'r - ful hand. Bread of Heav - en, Bread of Heav - en, feed me till I  
 jour - ney through. Strong De - liv - 'er, Strong De - liv - 'er, be Thou still my  
 Ca - nann's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es, I will ev - er

want no more, want no more; feed me till I want no more.  
 strength and shield, strength and shield; be Thou still my strength and shield.  
 give to Thee, give to Thee; I will ev - er give to Thee.

**DISMISSAL**

*Celebrant* Let us Bless the Lord.

**All** **Thanks be to God.**

## *Holy Comforter Episcopal Church*

The Reverend Dr. Allen Hill, Rector  
The Reverend Jim May, Assisting Priest  
The Reverend Deacon Joe Scheff, Deacon  
Dr. Melanie Salsgiver, Seminarian  
Hannah Shelly, Chaplain and Director of Youth and Children's Ministry



### **VESTRY**

Rick Wagner, Senior Warden  
Robert Efthim, Junior Warden  
Amy Johnson  
Susan Robinson  
Jenna Brown  
Corinne Johnston  
Bill Reineking  
Andy Granger, Treasurer  
Patricia Trom, Clerk

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