

manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.” ’

At the conclusion of the Gospel, the reader says,

The Gospel of Christ.

People Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Preparation Hymn CP 179 vs 1-5 & 6d

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

Tune: Thomas



Today we gratefully acknowledge the bulletin and the Wine and Hosts are offered in loving memory of Eric Lavers from Sandra and family

Hymn during Communion CP 634

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Source: Taizé Community

Sending Hymn CP 565

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah Cwm Rhondda

Postlude *Sortie from Sonata for flute and piano*
Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)

An Axe or a Shovel?

*It helps, now and then, to step back
and take the long view.*

*The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is beyond our vision. . . .*

*This is what we are about: We plant seeds
that one day will grow.*

We water seeds already planted,

knowing that they hold future promise.

*We lay foundations that will need further
development.*

*We provide yeast that produces effects
beyond our capabilities.*

We cannot do everything and

there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning,

*a step along the way, an opportunity
for God's grace to enter and to do the rest.*

*We may never see the end results, but that is the
difference between the master builder
and the worker.*

*We are workers, not master builders,
ministers, not messiahs.*

We are prophets of a future not our own.

Ken Untener – 1979

(commonly known as "Oscar Romero's Prayer")

The Cathedral Church of All Saints

The Third Sunday in Lent



‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard...’

March 23, 2025

Prelude: *Erbarm' dich mein, O Herre Gott*
Johann Ludwig Krebs (1713-1780)

Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgement

Opening Hymn: CP 384 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*
Tune: Lobe den Herren

Children's Message



Collect

**God of infinite goodness,
throughout the ages you have persevered
in claiming and reclaiming your people.
Renew for us your call to repentance,
surround us with witnesses to aid us in our journey,
and grant us the time to fashion our lives anew;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**
Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (2002), alt.

The Proclamation of the Word

Reader: Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of
God as it comes to us in the reading of
Holy Scripture.

All: Our hearts and minds are open.

Reader A reading from Isaiah (55:1-9)

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 63:1-8



O God you are my God; eager/ly 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.

Therefore I have gazed upon you in your / holy place,*
That I might behold your power / and your glory.

For your lovingkindness is better than / life itself,*
My lips shall / give you praise.

So will I bless you as long / as I live*
And lift up my hands / in your name.

My soul is content, as with mar-/row and fatness*
And my mouth praises you with / joyful lips,

When I remember you u-/pon my bed,*
And meditate on you in / the night watches.

For you have / been my helper,*
And under the shadow of your wings I / will rejoice.

My soul / clings to you;*
Your right hand / holds me fast.

Gradual Hymn: {see Insert}

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy Tune: St. Helena

Reader A reading from I 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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

All stand, as able, for the Gospel.

Deacon The Lord be with you

People **And also with you.**

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (13:1-9)

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

At that very time there were some present who told him 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 round it and put