



# Church of the Epiphany

## FROM THE MOUNTAIN TOP

Lent 2 • Cloudcroft, New Mexico • March 16, 2025



### Collect for Lent 2

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 that may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts that 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.

### Readings for Lent 2

Genesis 15:1-18  
Psalm 27:9-17  
Philippians 3:17-4:1  
Luke 13:22-35

Our Gospel reading from Luke for the Second Sunday in Lent is full of sermon ideas. Some of the more puzzling quotes from Jesus are found in this scripture. Striving to enter through the narrow door is one. The master of the house shutting the door in your face when you thought you knew him is another. Then the reading switches to the warning of the Pharisees to get out to town and the Jesus replies, "Go tell that fox." There is clearly lots of material for a sermon.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, the opening words of this scripture are vital to us as to how many of us are going to be saved. This matter of personal salvation has obviously been a subject of discussion since the time of Jesus. And still, we ask the question.

We pray that our commitment to you as our Savior is as completely true today as it was in the days after the resurrection. If we believe in you and profess you to be our Savior, we are saved.

We trust that is true and we know in our hearts that it is.

You are our Savior.

Praise the Lord.

Amen.

As Jesus went through the cities and villages on his way to Jerusalem he taught. In these teaching sessions he was asked questions that are still with us today. In a village he was asked, "Lord, are there a few who will be saved?"

The question of being saved is still around and an often asked one. Are you saved? Our personal relationship to Jesus is our answer.

When we took him to be our personal Savior and Professed him to be our Lord and King we are saved. At the time of Jesus on his way to the cross the question of salvation among the Jews was very different. The general opinion was that very few Jews were "saved" by the mosaic law. The Rabbis of the Second Temple days loved to debate that very question. The early understanding of the relationship of God to the Jewish nation was that they had a total connection between God and his people. Salvation was understood to be a *collective and national salvation* and not a *personal or individual one*. The Lord hears the cries of his Chosen People of Israel, and he delivers them from bondage. They are saved. God's pact was not made to individual Israelites but with the whole nation. Judaism believed that the Lord saved the children of Israel in the past as a nation, He also promises to restore Israel as a nation. This was the understanding of all the prophetic passages that deal with Israel. Judaism puts responsibility for the sins of the individual on him and it is his responsibility that by repentance, good works, and a life of devotion that individual would find salvation by his own deeds. The deliverance will still be on the individual in the here and now and not in the world to come.

Jesus was there to show them the other way. He was the Messiah, the anointed one, who would take away their sins and deliver them by his salvation sacrifice.

Are you saved? It is still the question as Jesus says in our reading. This is not the call to good works and a positive mental attitude. What we really need is to know Jesus personally and live in his presence.

In this season of Lent, we have the time to explore the history of our own salvation. We know Jesus and he is our personal Savior. During this season we can stand back and take a look at our progress. Jesus is the narrow gate. When the master of the house shuts the door, it is closed. We are blessed to be on the inside of the door. A casual seeking to know Jesus is not the answer. We need to know Jesus and that will

take a real striving effort.

For those who have thought about taking Jesus as a Savior but have not made the effort the scripture here is trouble. The Master of the house will at some time shut the door and that is the last of the chances to get in to know Jesus. There will be knocking on the shut door that is no longer possible to enter. Jesus has taught that there have been times for mercy and then there will come a time that that option is closed. There are limits to divine mercy and some will miss the opportunity. This teaching points out the difference between seeking and striving.

Then we hear the excuses that there was a time when they ate and drank with you in your presence. But the truth will be that those who are excluded had their chance with him and no real relationship had developed.

The destiny of those who are excluded from the kingdom of God will gnash their teeth to no avail. This was a radical idea. The Savior and the banquet was always to be available. This was the purpose of God's plan of salvation.

Jesus proceeds on his journey to Jerusalem. Some Pharisees came to him and warned him to get out of town as Herod wants to kill him.

Jesus replies that a fox is an unwanted creature, and he would not have anything to do with him. "Go tell that fox he had no intention of doing so. He would continue heal today and the next. Then on the third day he would be perfected and his mission would be complete.

In the reading from Luke when Jesus sees the city of Jerusalem, he is grieved. How he wanted to save the people and bring about the kingdom of God. But the time is running out and he will not be able to be the mother hen to her chicks. God wants to save his children from their suffering and sin. He has sent his Son to be that narrow door. It is through that door that we will find salvation. It is in this season that we are reminded to a time of prayer, reading scripture and reflection to restore our fellowship with our Lord.

During this time, we can ask God to show us those areas of our lives that need attention.

In the meantime, we will wait for His coming again as the Messiah, then we can say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

Amen.

Pastor Fred



## Epiphany's Lenten Schedule

**Please note some times have changed from times listed in the February newsletter.**

**Palm Sunday** - April 13

**Maundy Thursday**, April 17 - **5:00 pm**

**Good Friday**, April 18 - **4:30 pm**

**Stations of the Cross**

Fridays during Lent at **5 pm**

**Easter Sunday, April 20**

### **Prayer List - 3/16/25**

Emmaus Anglican, Castle Rock, CO  
Fr. Theron Walker

Bishop Steven and Tricia

### **Those who need your healing care and strength:**

Donya Conine  
Wayne Conine Jr.  
Walter Ford  
David and Jessie Brinkley  
Carolyn and Frank Wilson  
Elijah Nix  
Luis and Kelle Senge  
Baby Julius Taylor  
Ellie  
Rev. Shelby Moon  
Esther & Joel Fyock , Lydia Tran  
Rev. Elias Rosales Mendes

### **Those in the Armed Forces:**

Dominick Rankin, US Army, Ft. Bliss, TX  
Gabriella Murley, Ft. Bliss, TX  
Mason Gregg, Camp Courtney, Okinawa  
Creed Napier, US Air Force,  
J.W. Grove, US Navy  
Nicholas Tran, Joint Base Lewis- McChord  
Shawn Zima, Hong Kong  
Wyatt Green, US Navy  
Emma Skidmore, US Navy, OCS

### **We pray for our Epiphany family:**

J.R. Hester  
Machele Lackey  
Charles and Susie Stigall  
Rachel & Mary Spraitzer  
Stan and Sandy Thomas

**Lessons for Lent 2**  
**March 16, 2025**  
Anglican Lectionary  
year C

**Old Testament Reading**  
**Genesis 15:1-18**

15 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." 2 But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." 4 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." 5 And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." 6 And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness. 7 And he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." 8 But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" 9 He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." 10 And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. 11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. 12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. 13 Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. 14 But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. 16 And

they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." 17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.

18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

**Psalms 27:9-17**

9 Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I cry unto you; \*  
have mercy upon me and hear me.

10 You speak to my heart and say,  
"Seek my face." \*  
Your face, O LORD, will I seek.

11 O hide not your face from me, \*  
nor cast your servant away in displeasure.

12 You have been my helper; \*  
leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

13 When my father and my mother forsake me, \*  
the LORD takes me in.

14 Teach me your way, O LORD, \*  
and lead me in the right way, because of my enemies.

15 Deliver me not over to the will of my adversaries, \*  
for there are false witnesses who have risen up against me, and those who speak wrong.

16 I would utterly have fainted, \*  
had I not believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

17 O wait for the LORD; be strong, and he shall comfort your heart. \*  
O put your trust in the LORD.

## New Testament Reading

### Philippians 3:17-4:1

**17** Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. **18** For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. **19** Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. **20** But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, **21** who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

**4** Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

## The Holy Gospel

### Luke 13:22-35

**22** He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem.

**23** And someone said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them, **24** "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

**25** When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then he will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' **26** Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' **27** But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!' **28** In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. **29** And people will come from east and west, and

from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. **30** And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

**31** At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." **32** And he said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. **33** Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.' **34** O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! **35** Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

