


The Third Sunday of Lent

March 23, 2025

THE HOLY EUCHARIST (RITE II)

10:00 am


PREPARATION
WHAT LIES
BEHIND US
AND WHAT LIES
BEFORE US
ARE TINY
MATTERS
COMPARED TO
WHAT LIES
WITHIN US

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (EPISCOPAL)

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Silence in Lent

Good morning. As we continue through the six Sundays of Lent to Holy Week, we encourage silence in church as we gather. Keeping silence signals both an intentional withdrawal from the racket and churn of the wider world and willingness to open space for prayers — our own and those of congregants sitting near us. Please help us build and maintain silence by refraining from conversation before the liturgy begins with the ringing of the bell.

The Word of God

The Prelude

What Wondrous Love is This

Dale Wood

Please stand as you are able as the bell is rung.

The Opening Hymn WLP 753 When from bondage we are summoned

Grid



1. When from bond - age we are sum-moned out of dark-ness in - to light,
2. When our God names us a peo - ple, Je - sus leads us by the hand
3. Through all stag - es of the jour - ney Christ is with us, night and day,
4. We must not lose sight of Je - sus, who ac - cept - ed pain and loss,
5. See the prize our God has prom - ised: end - less life with Christ our Lord.



1. we must go in hope and pat - ience, walk by faith and not by sight.
2. through a lone - ly, bar - ren des - ert to a great and glo - rious land.
3. with com - pas - sion for our weak - ness ev' - ry step a - long the way.
4. who, for joy of love un-meas - ured, dared em-brace the shame - ful cross.
5. Now we fix our eyes on Je - sus, walk by faith in Je - sus' word.

Refrain



Let us throw off all that hin - ders; let us run the race to win!



Let us hast-en to our home-land and, re-joic-ing, en - ter in.

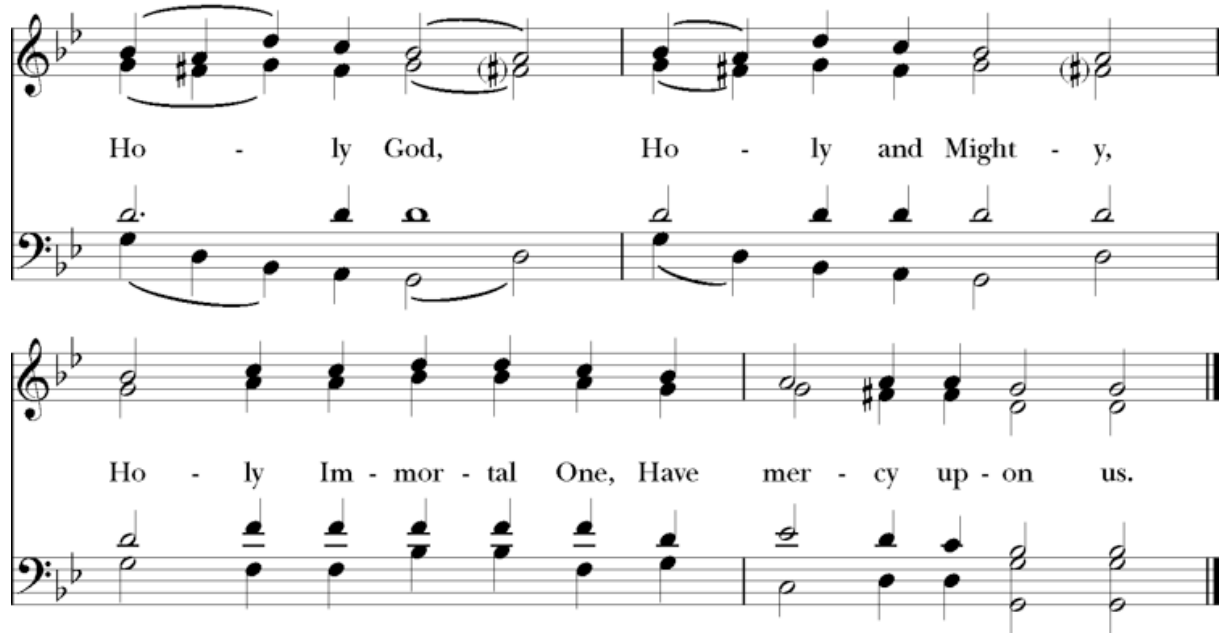
Celebrant
People

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
God's mercy endures forever.

The Confession of Sin

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

Trisagion *(sung three times)*



Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Let us confess our sins to God and to our neighbor.

Silence is observed.

You may remain standing or choose to sit or kneel as you are able for the confession.

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.

Please stand as you are able.

The Absolution

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.**

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

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.**

Please be seated for the scripture appointed.

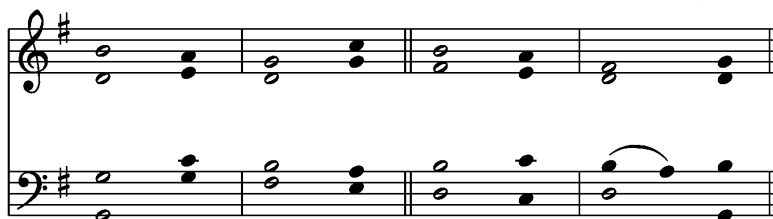
The Lessons

A reading from the book of 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 Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Robert Knox Kennedy
(b. 1945)



Psalm 63:1-8

- 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 it / **self;** *
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 re / **joice.**
- 8 My soul / **clings to you;** *
your right hand holds me / **fast.**

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the 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.

People: The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able for the sequence hymn and the reading of the gospel.

Sequence Hymn 152 Kind maker of the world

A la venue de Noel

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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 Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Patrick C. Ward

Please stand as you are able for the creed; you may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers as your personal piety guides you.

The Nicene Creed

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 human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

The Prayers of the People

Eternal God, you have promised to hear when we pray in the name of your Christ. Therefore in confidence and trust we pray for the Church and particularly those named this week in our Diocesan cycle of prayer: Trinity Chapel, Oak Bluffs; our own parish; and the Boston Episcopal Charitable Society.

Father, enliven the Church for its mission
that we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.

Breathe fresh life into your people.
Give us power to reveal Christ in word and action.

We pray for the world: remembering especially those regions of the world torn apart by war or civil unrest, including Gaza, Israel, Ukraine, Russia, Haiti, The Republic of the Congo and Sudan. We pray for those in every land who suffer for the sake of conscience. We pray for our own nation and all in positions of authority that they may show forth wisdom and compassion.

Creator of all, lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace.
That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.

Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.
Teach us to care creatively for its resources.

We pray for our community and particularly this week for our church staff.

God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others
that all may act with integrity and courage.

Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours.
May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.

We pray for those who have asked for our prayers: Gerry Ainslie, Elizabeth Beattie, Robert Blanchet, Terese Brown, Sally Drew, Bill & Judy Gardiner, Peggy Kern, Joan Payne, Jennifer Peters, Sue Sasso, Henry Shepherd, Barbara and Philip Sousa, Linda Staab, Pam Thomas, Eloise Thompson, Dottie Walsh, Meg Zaks, Alex, Brant, Carole, Dave, David, Kathy, Lauren, Linnea, Maggie, Marcos, Pat, Sarah Jane, Jeanne. As well as for those we name before you now, silently or aloud.

God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit.
May they know the power of your healing love.

Make us willing agents of your compassion.
Strengthen us as we share in making people whole.

We remember those who have died and those who mourn, especially Mary Clark and those we name before you now, silently or aloud.

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in the faith of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone.

Into your hands we commend them.

Finally, we pray for ourselves and our ministries. (Pause).

Lord, you have called us to serve you.

Grant that we may walk in your presence: your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills; until, at the end of our journey, we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: **And also with you.**

The Greeting and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Jesus, Grant me this

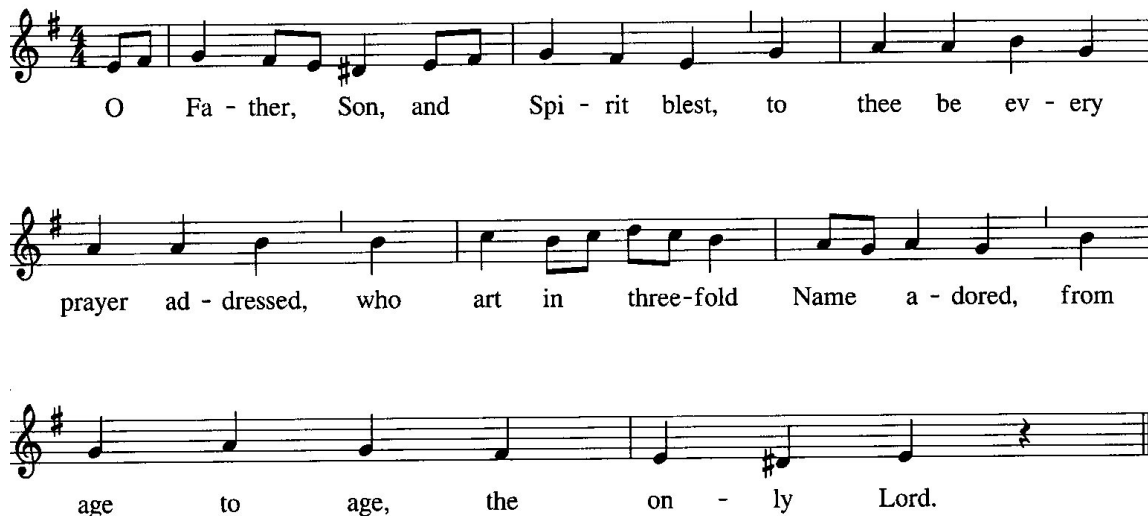
C. H. Kitson

Jesu, grant me this, I pray, ever in thy heart to stay:
Let me evermore abide hidden in thy wounded side.
If the evil one prepare, or the world, a tempting snare,
I am safe when I abide in thy heart and wounded side.
If the flesh, more dangerous still, tempt my soul to deeds of ill,
Naught I fear when I abide in thy heart and wounded side.
Death will come one day to me; Jesu, cast me not from thee:
Dying, let me still abide in thy heart and wounded side.

Please stand as you are able as our offering is presented.

Hymn 143

Erhalt uns, Herr



O Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit blest, to thee be ev - ery
prayer ad - dressed, who art in three-fold Name a - dored, from
age to age, the on - ly Lord.

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.
People **And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer C*

Celebrant: May God be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them up to God.**
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God.
People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.
By your will they were created and have their being.

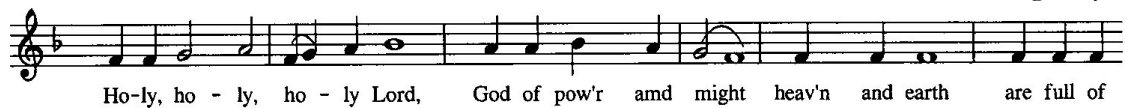
From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
Have mercy, God, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.
By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

The Sanctus

Archangelsky/Proulx



You may remain standing, sit or kneel for the continuation of the Eucharistic prayer.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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.”*

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
We celebrate his death and resurrection as we await the day of his coming.

Lord of our Fathers and Mothers; God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Leah and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen God, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Archangelsky/Proulx

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.

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in G minor (three flats). The first staff starts with a repeat sign and contains the melody for 'Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us.' The second staff continues with 'Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, grant us peace.' The third staff concludes the phrase with 'grant us peace.' The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing.

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.

The Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Holy Jesus, Redeemer of the World, we believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament of this altar. Even while some of us are unable to receive you in the elements of bread and wine, we invite you to enter our hearts and be our companion along the way. Awaiting in hope, we know that you are present in every moment of our lives and will never leave us comfortless. For all good things come from you O Lord, and from that goodness, lead us to the love of others. For you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.

All are welcome to receive communion. Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available; please make your needs known to the person serving you.

The Communion

Hymn 439 What wondrous love is this

Wondrous Love

Taize chant

Taize

Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's ho - ly name. Bless the Lord my soul who leads me in - to life.

The musical notation is a single line of music in G major (one sharp) and common time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody is simple and contemplative, with lyrics written below the notes. The first line of music covers the first two phrases, and the second line covers the final phrase. The lyrics are: 'Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's ho - ly name. Bless the Lord my soul who leads me in - to life.'

The Post Communion Prayer

Please stand as you are able.

Let us pray.

Blessed be God who calls us together.

Praise to God who makes us one people.

Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin.

Praise to God who gives hope and freedom.

Blessed be God whose Word is proclaimed.

Praise to God who is revealed as love.

Blessed be God who alone has called us.

Therefore we offer all that we are and all that we shall become.

Accept, O God, our sacrifice of praise.

Amen. Accept our thanks for all you have done.

Our hands were empty, and you filled them.

The Sending *(when lay eucharistic visitors are scheduled to make home or hospital visits)*

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, we 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, for we all share in the one bread and the one cup.**

The Blessing

The Closing Hymn 685 Rock of ages

Toplady

The Dismissal *Deacon:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude

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Celebrant and Preacher

The Rev. Patrick C. Ward

Minister of Music

Joan Kirchner

Eucharistic Ministers

Celia Calhoun, Cynthia Murry

Readers

Jean Collins, Diana Crighton, Lizzie/Raven Thompson

Usbers

Sally Dewing, Dick Koeppen

Altar Guild

Georgia Schneider

Audio/Video

John Harter

The Terraces

Priscilla Isner

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