

# **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**Third Sunday of Lent**

7 March 2021

## GREETING

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

Lord, direct our thoughts,

help us to pray,

and lift our hearts to worship you

in Spirit and in truth,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**HYMN**

# CONFESSION

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit,  
returned from the Jordan  
and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,  
where for forty days  
he was tempted by the devil.

Let us confess our sins  
remembering before God the times  
when we have fallen from temptation into sin.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness  
and cleanse me from my sin.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Make me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Cast me not away from your presence  
and take not your holy spirit from me.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God,  
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,  
bring you his pardon and peace,  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## COLLECT

Eternal God,  
give us insight  
to discern your will for us,  
to give up what harms us,  
and to seek the perfection we are promised  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **FIRST READING** Exodus 20.1-7

Then God spoke all these words: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God,

punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work.

But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work – you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1.18-25

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.

For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN**

## **GOSPEL READING** John 2.13-22

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**HOMILY**

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# AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

*cf Ephesians 3*

# INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray to the Lord.

*At the end this response may be included:*

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

# THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

**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,  
the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

**HYMN**

## BLESSING

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,  
to deny yourselves,  
take up your cross, and follow him;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

*Stay with us  
for tea, coffee and chat.*

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