



Sunday 7 March, 2021

Third Sunday of Lent

*If a household are praying together,
one person may act as leader and the
others as the congregation and they
join in the words in bold type.*

If alone, read all the words aloud.

*You may want to light a candle before you begin, and
have a Bible, cross or crucifix to look at.*

*You might prepare for this act of worship by listening to
some music, or by being still.*

God's people have always needed holy places. But sacred places are open to abuse. Jesus' cleaning of the temple resonates strongly with the Ten Commandments – that worship and devotion God requires is absolute. Jesus goes on to speak of raising up the temple of his body so we are drawn beyond earthly things into God's new order of resurrection life.

Preparation

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

The Act of Penitence

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:
fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our fear and failure
in sharing our faith:

fill us with your Spirit.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of
trust:

fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Words of forgiveness

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Special Prayer for this week

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's
sufferings,
and by following in his Way come to share in his
glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Word of the Lord

First Reading | 1 Corinthians 1. 18 - 25

A reading from the letter to the Corinthians.

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

The Holy Gospel | John 2. 13 - 22

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.



He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' They then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

Affirmation of faith

With our Christian brothers and sisters, we affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name: 00
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is
Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Prayers of intercession

*(Here you may wish to offer prayer in your own words,
or be prompted by the words here)*

*We pray for our world, especially at this time of anxiety
and fear...*

We pray for our nation and its well-being...

*We pray for neighbours, family and friends and we
remember all those self-isolating at the moment...*

*We pray for all who are sick, worried or anxious, and for
those who feel cut off from friends and family...*

*We pray for those who have died in recent days, and all
whom we remember with love and affection....*

The Lord's Prayer

Joining with Christians throughout the world,
we pray:

Our Father....

or

Our Father in heaven....

The Grace

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy
Spirit, be with us all, evermore. **Amen**

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Readings for the coming week:

Monday	Psalm 98	Luke 4.24-30
Tuesday	Psalm 106	Matthew 18.21-end
Wednesday	Psalm 38	Matthew 5.17-19
Thursday	Psalm 56	Luke 11.14-23
Friday	Psalm 22	Mark 12.28-34
Saturday	Psalm 121	Luke 18.9-14

**Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate
us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.**