

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**The Third Sunday of Lent**

**Reading 1:** Exodus 20: 1 - 17

**Gospel:** John 2: 13 – 22

**Prayer.**

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable to you,  
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

**Psalm: 19**

The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

<sup>2</sup> Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge.

<sup>3</sup> There is no speech, nor are there words;  
their voice is not heard;

<sup>4</sup> yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,  
<sup>5</sup> which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,  
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

<sup>6</sup> Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them;  
and nothing is hidden from its heat.

<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect,  
reviving the soul;  
the decrees of the LORD are sure,  
making wise the simple;  
<sup>8</sup> the precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear,  
enlightening the eyes;

<sup>9</sup> the fear of the LORD is pure,  
enduring for ever;  
the ordinances of the LORD are true  
and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey,  
and drippings of the honeycomb.

<sup>11</sup> Moreover by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup> But who can detect their errors?

Clear me from hidden faults.

<sup>13</sup> Keep back your servant also from the insolent;<sup>[d]</sup>  
do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless,  
and innocent of great transgression.

<sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable to you,  
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

**Song:** (*click link*)    There Is A King <https://youtu.be/3CBJ7IkXWVA>

### **Invitation to Confession**

When the Lord comes,  
he will bring to light those things now hidden in darkness,  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Therefore in the light of Christ  
let us confess our sins.

*A moment of quiet reflection...*

### **Confession:**

Almighty God,  
long-suffering and of great goodness:  
I confess to you,  
I confess with my whole heart  
my neglect and forgetfulness of your  
commandments,  
my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking;  
the hurts I have done to others,  
and the good I have left undone.  
O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you;  
and raise me to newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **Absolution:**

May the God of love  
bring us back to Himself,  
forgive us our sins  
and assure us of His eternal love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.    Amen.

**Reading 1:** Exodus 20: 1 - 17

Then God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup> I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup> you shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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, <sup>6</sup> but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> For six days you shall labour and do all your work. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup> You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup> You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup> You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup> You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

<sup>17</sup> 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

### **Gospel:      John 2: 13 – 22**

<sup>13</sup> The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!' <sup>17</sup> His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' <sup>18</sup> The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' <sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' <sup>20</sup> The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' <sup>21</sup> But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup> 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 be to you O Christ.

**Talk:** (click link)      <https://youtu.be/wNzjDihXW6I>

*We say together in faith.*

## **The Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

## **Prayers of Intercession:**

*(Please add in names and circumstances known to you in the appropriate place)*

Heavenly Father, we want to thank you for the world that you have created. Help us to be aware of our responsibility to look after that which you have made.

Lord in your mercy; hear our prayer.

As we pray for our world, so we pray for those that make decisions on our behalf; we pray for the world leaders to make right choices as we move on from coronavirus; help them to make joint decisions for the wellbeing of all people.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

In our own country we pray for our Queen and for her government, we ask, Lord, for your wisdom to reign in the hearts of our sovereign and politicians, that they may heed advice to ease us from lockdown in a measured way that will dispel fear and promote safety.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

The church is looking forward to a time of meeting together again, so we pray for the church leaders, our Archbishops and Bishops, as they meet to discuss the ways that churches can reopen. Give them, our church leaders and all church leaders, discernment gifts to bring the church together to worship you. Unite us Lord in praise of who you are.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for our local area; all those churches on the Dengie peninsula. Draw people we pray, to worship you our living God, we ask that your Holy Spirit moves the hearts of the residents of this deanery and that we will see many lives changed for your glory.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We bring before you today, those who are on our hearts for prayer, and those that we do not know, yet you know. Bring your healing, both physically and spiritually, that they may know the goodness of our God.

We pray especially for .....

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

And we pray for each other, that we will grow in knowledge and love of you, our heavenly father.

Merciful Father,  
accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
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.

### **Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name  
Your kingdom come  
Your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread  
and forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil  
For the kingdom the power and the glory  
are yours now and forever. Amen.

*Usually, at this point in the service, we take up our offering;  
let us pause for a moment to bring ourselves and all that we offer to God  
and give Him thanks.*

**Song:** (click link) Revelation Song <https://youtu.be/E5IrSzMtpeE>

### **Prayer.**

Jesus, Lord of time, hold us in your eternity.  
Jesus, image of God, travel with us the life of faith,

Jesus, friend of sinners, heal the brokenness of our world.  
Jesus, Lord of our tomorrow, draw us into your future. Amen.

**Blessing:**

The love of the Lord Jesus draw us to himself,  
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen us in His service,  
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill our hearts.....

.....and the blessing of God almighty  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
be with us, and all those whom we love,  
this day and always.           Amen

*As we come to the end of this service we can fellowship with each other in Spirit, with tea, coffee  
and biscuits, and continuing to pray for each other.*

*Post something on the Facebook page to bless others.*