

Sunday 3rd March 2024
Third Sunday of Lent

First Reading 1 Corinthians 1: 18 - 25

Gospel Reading John 2: 13 - 22

Let us pause for a moment to bring ourselves and all that we offer to God and give Him thanks.

Grace mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Prayer:

Almighty God,
your Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence.
Give us new hearts and constant wills
to worship you in Spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: *(click link)* All people that on Earth do Dwell

<https://youtu.be/JmGwHdNtpEw>

Invitation to Confession:

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
God will not despise.
Let us come to the Lord,
who is full of compassion,
and acknowledge our transgressions
in penitence and faith.

Confession:

Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in
thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our
whole heart.
We have not loved our
neighbours as ourselves.

In your mercy,
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.

Absolution:

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessed be the Lord
for he has heard the voice of our prayer;

Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy
and in our song will we praise our God.

Reading 1: 1 Corinthians 1: 18 – 25 Christ the Power and Wisdom of God

¹⁸ For 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. ¹⁹ For it is written,

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

²⁰ 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? ²¹ 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. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ 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.

Gospel: John 2:13 – 22 Jesus Cleanses the Temple

¹³ The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ He told those who

were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' ¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' ²⁰ The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' ²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²² 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/sH1XsX_k4wQ

Song: (click link) When I look into your Holiness <https://youtu.be/at7fF-0FbvM>

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

The 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,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
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 worshipped 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.

Prayers of Intercession.

We pray to the Lord for courage to give up other things
and to give ourselves to him this Lent.

Give your Church the courage
to give up her preoccupation with herself
and to give more time to your mission in the world.

[We pray for ...]

May the blood and water flowing from the side of Jesus
bring forgiveness to your people
and help us to face the cost of proclaiming salvation.

Lord, meet us in the silence,

give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give your world the courage
to give up war, bitterness and hatred,
and to seek peace.

[We pray for ...]

May the shoulders of the risen Jesus,
once scourged by soldiers,
bear the burden of political and military conflict in our world.

Lord, meet us in the silence,

give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give us the courage to give up quarrels, strife and jealousy
in our families, neighbourhoods and communities.

[We pray for ...]

May the presence of the risen Jesus,
his body once broken and now made whole,
bring peace and direction as we live with one another.

Lord, meet us in the silence,

give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give us the courage
to give up our selfishness as we live for others,
and to give time, care and comfort to the sick.

[We pray for ...]

May the wounded hands of Jesus bring his healing touch,
and the light of his presence fill their rooms.

Lord, meet us in the silence,

give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give us the courage to give up our fear of death

and to rejoice with those who have died in faith.

[Especially we hold ... in our minds.]

May the feet of the risen Lord Jesus, once nailed to the cross,
walk alongside the dying and bereaved in their agony,
and walk with us and all your Church
through death to the gate of glory.

Lord, meet us in the silence,

**give us strength and hear our prayer,
here and in eternity. Amen.**

Collect of the Day

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

Silence is kept.

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.

Song: *(click link)* Jesus is King <https://youtu.be/BMV1Unlej7U>

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;
Father Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us, and remain with us
and all those whom we love,
now and forever.
Amen.

Post something on the Facebook page to bless others.