



# The Third Sunday in Lent

March 7, 2021

# Opening Acclamation



Celebrant Blessed be the God of our salvation:

**People: Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*In unison*

**Holy God  
Holy and mighty  
Holy Immortal One,  
Have mercy upon us.**

# Salutation and Collect

Celebrant God 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.



# The Lessons

## Exodus 20:1-17

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. For 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.

Honor 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 neighbor.

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

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's church.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

# The Psalm

## Psalm 19 *Caeli enarrant*

1 The heavens declare the glory of God, \*  
**and the firmament shows his handiwork.**

2 One day tells its tale to another, \*  
**and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

3 Although they have no words or language, \*  
**and their voices are not heard,**

4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, \*  
**and their message to the ends of the world.**

5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; \*  
**it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it  
rejoices like a champion to run its course.**

6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and  
runs about to the end of it again; \*  
**nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

7 The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; \*  
**the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the  
innocent.**

8 The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; \*  
**the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the  
eyes.**

9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; \*  
**the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.**

10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,  
\*  
**sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

11 By them also is your servant enlightened, \*  
**and in keeping them there is great reward.**

12 Who can tell how often he offends? \*  
**cleanse me from my secret faults.**

13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them  
not get dominion over me; \*  
**then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great  
offense.**

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be  
acceptable in your sight, \*

# The Epistle

## 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.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's church.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

# The Gospel



## John 2:13-22

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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 marketplace!" 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." The Jews 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.

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**



# The Sermon

# 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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin  
Mary  
and became truly 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.

# Prayers of the People

Gracious God, you feed us by your hand in the wilderness, and lead us to lands of promise that sustain us. Hear us now as we call upon you.

*Brief silence.*

We pray for the Church, that we may be the reconciling body of Christ on earth. May we fulfill your message of love entrusted to us, and so renew the world. As we know Christ

**Let us also make Him known.**

We pray for our nation and all nations throughout the world; open the hearts and minds of all who hold authority that they may be instructed by your Word, and guided in the way that they should go. Lead us in your truth

**And guard us in adversity.**

We pray for the earth, your creation; you gave us this gift that it might sustain us, but we have exploited and despoiled it. Trouble our conscience that we may seek to restore and nurture our land, water, and air. As you have cared for us

**So may we care for all that you have made.**

We pray for all people on the margins of life; when you became incarnate you welcomed the outcast, prayed, healed, and ate with them. So fill us with compassion that we do not hold ourselves far off from those in need, but instead run to meet them. Embrace with your mercy

**All who turn to you.**

We pray for our community; continually remake us in Christ that we may faithfully minister to all whom we encounter. We are thankful for one another

**And we rejoice in you.**

We pray for all who have died; we know that in your house there is music and dancing as they return to you. May the glimpse we have on earth of that heavenly banquet comfort all who grieve. You have delivered us from death

**And our hearts ache with joy.**

*The Celebrant concludes*

O God, in your love you run to meet us whenever we turn to you; and when we follow the way you would have us go, we are daily created anew. Whenever we wander from you, recall us to ourselves that we may seek again your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Confession of Sin

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God.  
*Silence may be kept.*

*In unison*

**God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against  
you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each  
other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have  
created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.**



# Spiritual Communion

The image shows the interior of a church with a large, ornate golden chandelier hanging from the ceiling on the left. In the background, there is a large mosaic depicting a religious scene, possibly the Last Supper, with figures and text. Above the mosaic are several arched windows. The text "Spiritual Communion" is overlaid in the center of the image in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

# Sursum Corda



Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

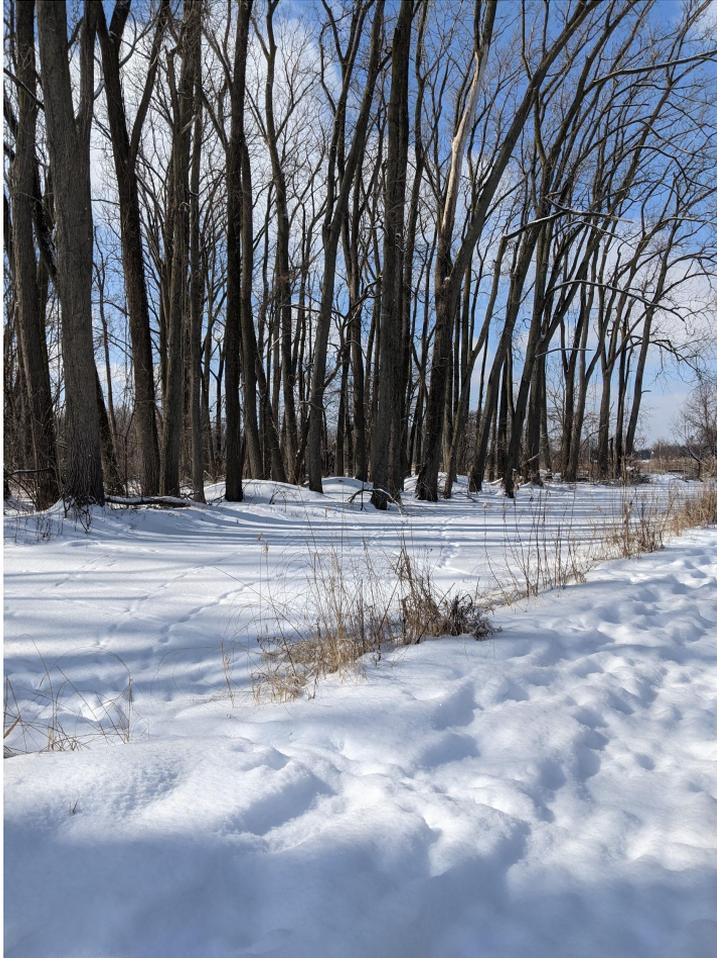
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

**People We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.



Therefore, joining with  
Angels and Archangels and  
with the faithful of every  
generation, we lift our  
voices with all creation as  
we say:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and  
might,**

**heaven and earth are  
full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the  
highest.**

**Blessed is the one  
who comes in the  
name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the  
highest.**

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.





We cannot now gather at your table, yet we take this time to remember Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, and we offer to you ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon us that we may be one in heart, soul, and mind, and that we may know that your Presence lives in and among us, and that nothing can separate us from your love. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

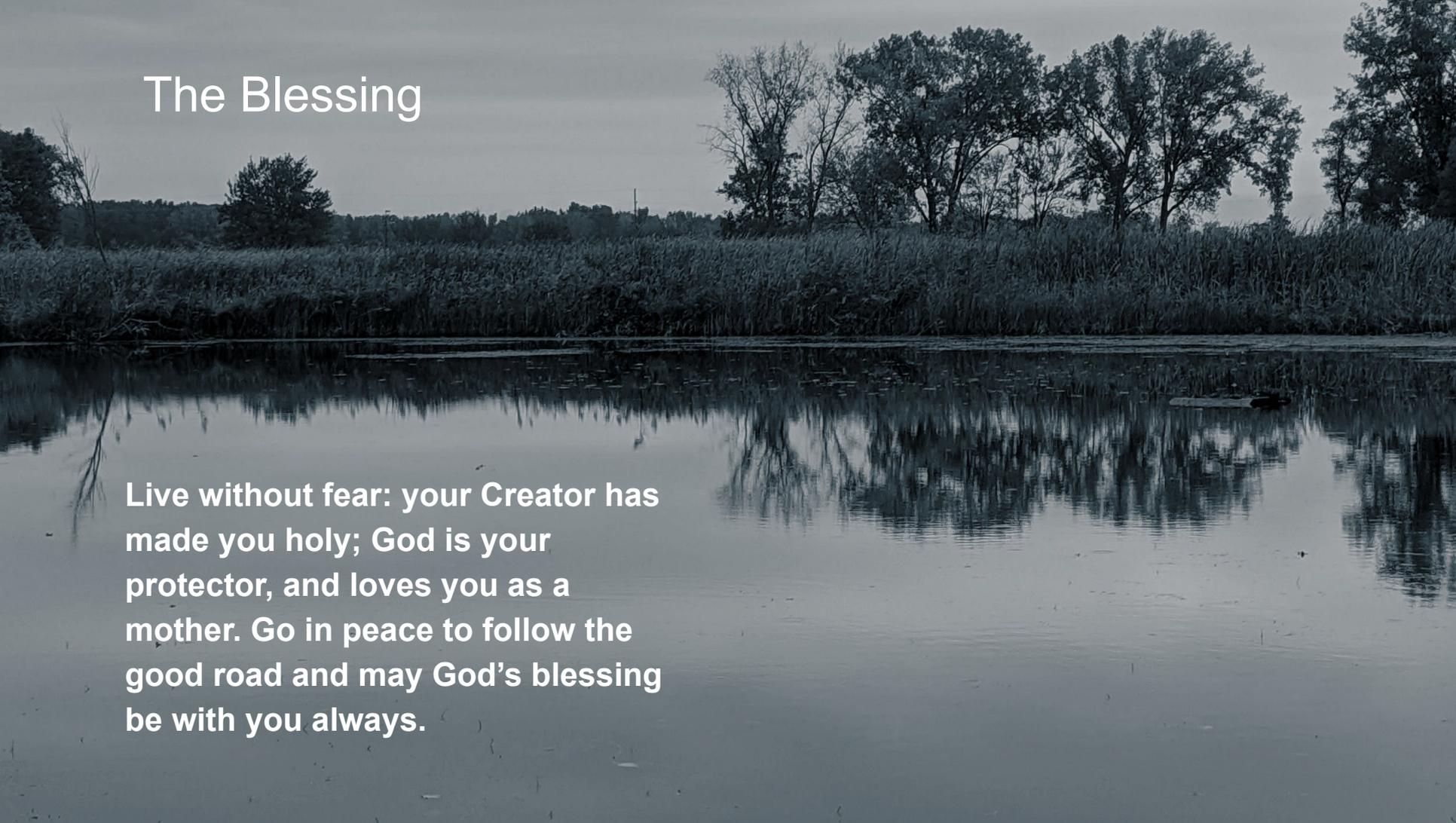
**Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.**

Together, we pray in the words our Saviour Christ taught us:

**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.  
Forgive us our sins  
As we forgive those  
Who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
And deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
And the glory are yours,  
Now and for ever.  
Amen.**



# The Blessing

A monochromatic landscape photograph featuring a calm body of water in the foreground. The water's surface is still, creating a clear reflection of the dense line of tall reeds and various trees that form the background. The sky is a uniform, light grey, suggesting an overcast day. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

**Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy; God is your protector, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always.**