



THIRD SUNDAY
in
LENT

March 7, 2021

PRELUDE

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION

[P] Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

[C] **Amen.**

[P] If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand? Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

Silence is kept for reflection.

[P] Gracious God,

[C] **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.**

[P] Receive good news: God turns to you in love. "I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live," says our God. All your sin is forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God's grace for you.

[C] **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

"Canticle of the Turning"

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring.

Let the fires of your justice burn.

Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!

From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r, not a stone will be left on stone.

Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne.

The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. (*Refrain*)

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:

God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.

This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. (*Refrain*)

THE GREETING

[P] The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

[C] **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

[P] Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C] **Amen.**

GOSPEL: John 2:13-22

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 marketplace!" 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.

[P] The Gospel of the Lord.

[C] **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

In the cross of Christ I glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.

APOSTLES' CREED

[AM] Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

[C] **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE [AM] Lord in your mercy **[C] Hear our prayer**

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

GATHERING OF GIFTS & SPECIAL MUSIC

OFFERING PRAYER

[P] Faithful God, you walk beside us in wilderness places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

[C] Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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,
and the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER

[AM] God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people from across time and space into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

[C] Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

"Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross"

Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain: In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
there the bright and Morning star sheds its beams around me. (*Refrain*)

DISMISSAL

[AM] Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

[C] Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE
