

# THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

15th March 2009

## First Reading

**A reading from the book of Exodus**

*The law was given through Moses.*

**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. 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.

Honour 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 neighbour.

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.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps. 19(18)**

**Response:** *Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.*

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,  
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,  
it gives wisdom to the simple.

**R.**

3. The fear of the Lord is holy,  
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth  
and all of them just.

**R.**

2. The precepts of the Lord are right,  
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,  
it gives light to the eyes;

**R.**

4. They are more to be desired than  
gold,

than the purest of gold  
and sweeter are they than honey,  
than honey from the comb.

**R.**

## Second Reading

**1 Cor 1:22-25**

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

*We are preaching a crucified Christ, a scandal to humanity,  
but to those who have been called, the wisdom of God.*

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.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

## GOSPEL

**Jn. 2:13-25**

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John

℟: **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

*Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.*

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.

When he was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part would not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to testify about anyone; for he himself knew what was in everyone.

For the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Christ.**