

Sunday 7 March 2021

## Hymns, Readings, and Collect

Third Sunday of Lent

### Opening Hymn: The royal banners forward go

The royal banners forward go,  
the cross shines forth in mystic glow,  
where he in flesh, our flesh who made,  
our sentence bore, our ransom paid.

Fulfilled is all that David told  
in true prophetic song of old,  
the universal Lord is he,  
who reigns and triumphs from the tree.

O tree of beauty, tree of light,  
O tree with royal purple dight,  
elect on whose triumphal breast  
those holy limbs should find their rest!

On whose dear arms so widely flung,  
the weight of this world's ransom hung,  
the price of humankind to pay  
and spoil the spoiler of his prey.

O cross, our one reliance, hail!  
So may the power with us prevail  
to give new virtue to the saint,  
and pardon to the penitent.

To thee, eternal Three in One,  
let homage meet by all be done:  
whom by the cross thou dost restore,  
preserve and govern evermore. Amen.

*Gonfalon Royal 79iii NEH*

### The Collect: Third Sunday of Lent

Almighty God,  
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,  
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:  
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,  
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;  
through the same Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

### The Old Testament Reading

A reading from the book Exodus.

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.

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Exodus 20: 1–17*

**The New Testament Reading**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

*1 Corinthians 1: 18–25*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual antiphon: Wash me thoroughly**

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness: and forgive me all my sin.

*Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810–76)*

*Psalm 51: 2*

**The Gospel**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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 market-place!’ 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*St John 2: 13–22*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

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**The Creed:**

Let us declare our faith in the living God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Offertory Hymn: How deep the Father's love for us**

How deep the Father's love for us,  
    how vast beyond all measure,  
that he should give his only Son  
    to make a wretch his treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss;  
    the Father turns his face away,  
as wounds which mar the chosen One  
    bring many souls to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,  
    my sin upon his shoulders;  
ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
    call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held him there  
    until it was accomplished;  
his dying breath has brought me life -  
    I know that 'it is finished.'

I will not boast in anything,  
    no gifts, no power, no wisdom;  
but I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
    his death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from his reward?  
    I cannot give an answer;  
but this I know with all my heart,  
    his wounds have paid my ransom.

*How deep the Father's love 114 AM*

**A Prayer to receive Spiritual Communion**

**In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every Altar of thy Church  
where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated,  
I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving.  
I present to you my soul and body  
with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you.  
And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart.  
I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul.  
Let nothing ever separate you from me.  
May I live and die in your love. Amen.**

**Anthem: Beati quorum via**

Beati quorum via integra est: qui ambulant in lege Domini.

*Blessed are they whose way is blameless: who walk in the law of the Lord.*

*Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)*

*Psalm 119: 1*

**Collect for the Season of Lent**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:  
create and make in us new and contrite hearts  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**Dismissal: Lift high the cross**

*Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

Follow the path on which our Captain trod,  
our King victorious, Christ the Son of God:

Each new-born soldier of the Crucified  
Bears on his brow the seal of him who died:

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
the hosts of God in conquering ranks combine:

From farthest regions let them homage bring,  
and on his cross adore their Saviour King:

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious Tree,  
as thou hast promised, draw us unto thee:

Set up thy throne, that earth's despair may cease  
beneath the shadow of its healing peace:

*Crucifer 72 AMNS*