

Sunday 20 March 2022

Third Sunday of Lent

## Hymns, Readings, and Collect

### Opening Hymn: 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:

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

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

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

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

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

*Crucifer 72 AMNS*

### 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 New Testament Reading

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

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

This is the word of the Lord.

*1 Corinthians 10: 1–13*

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation: Bless the Lord, my soul

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

*Taize Community*

**The Gospel**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*St Luke 13: 1–9*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**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*

**Anthem: Like as the hart**

Like as the hart desireth the water-brooks:  
so longeth my soul after thee, O God.  
My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God:  
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?  
My tears have been my meat day and night:  
while they daily say unto me, Where is now thy God?

*Herbert Howells (1892–1983)  
Psalm 42: 1–3*

**Communion Hymn: As the deer pants for the water**

As the deer pants for the water,  
so my soul longs after you.  
you alone are my heart's desire  
and I long to worship you.  
*You alone are my strength, my shield,  
to you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
and I long to worship you.*

I want you more than gold or silver,  
only you can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy-giver  
And the apple of my eye:

You're my friend and you are my brother,  
Even though you are a king.  
I love you more than any other,  
So much more than anything:

*As the Deer 592 AM*

**Dismissal: Guide me, O thou great Redeemer**

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand:  
Bread of heaven,  
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fiery cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through:  
strong Deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee.

*Cwm Rhondda 368 NEH*