

# The Third Sunday in Lent

## Morning Worship for March 7, 2021

Welcome

Gathering Music

Opening Sentence of Scripture

*One* Return to me, says the Lord of hosts, and I will return to you.

*(Zechariah 1:3)*

Confession and Absolution of Sin

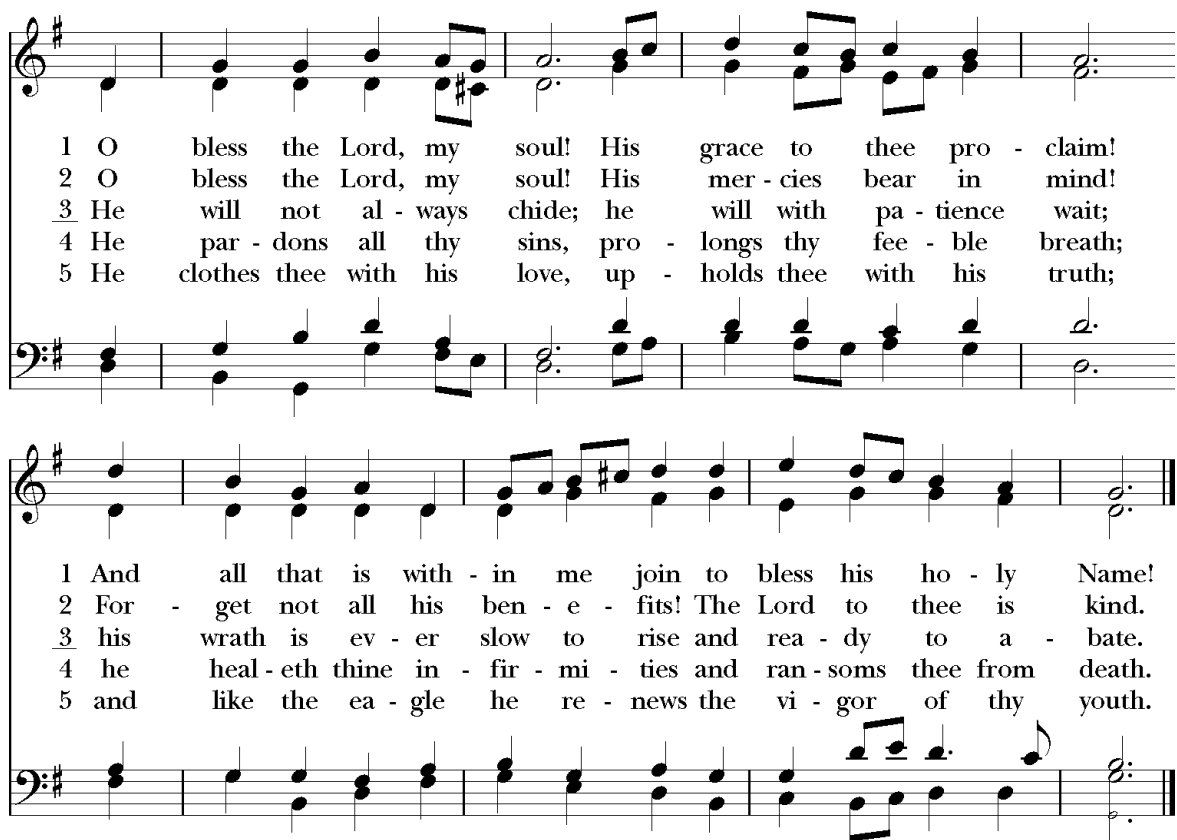
*One* So that we might better love as God loves us,  
Let us confess the sin that seeks to separate us from God and one another.

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Many* **Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. *Amen.***

*One* Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins  
through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness,  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

Hymn – O bless the Lord, my soul! (*St. Thomas (Williams)*) - *Hymnal 1982* #411



1 O bless the Lord, my soul! His grace to thee pro - claim!  
 2 O bless the Lord, my soul! His mer - cies bear in mind!  
 3 He will not al - ways chide; he will with pa - tience wait;  
 4 He par - dons all thy sins, pro - longs thy fee - ble breath;  
 5 He clothes thee with his love, up - holds thee with his truth;

1 And all that is with - in me join to bless his ho - ly Name!  
 2 For - get not all his ben - e - fits! The Lord to thee is kind.  
 3 his wrath is ev - er slow to rise and rea - dy to a - bate.  
 4 he heal - eth thine in - fir - mi - ties and ran - soms thee from death.  
 5 and like the ea - gle he re - news the vi - gor of thy youth.

6 Then bless his holy Name,  
 whose grace hath made thee whole,  
 whose loving-kindness crowns thy days:  
 O bless the Lord, my soul!

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854); para. of Psalm 103:1-5

Music: *St. Thomas (Williams)*, melody Aaron Williams (1731-1776); harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

*One* Holy One, open our lips.  
*Many* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*One* The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.  
*Many* **Come let us adore him.**

*One* Let us pray Psalm 19 together, responsively, by whole verse.

### Psalm 19

- <sup>1</sup> The heavens declare your glory, O God, \*  
and the firmament shows your handiwork.
- <sup>2</sup> **One day tells its tale to another, \***  
**and one night imparts knowledge to another.**
- <sup>3</sup> Although they have no words or language, \*  
and their voices are not heard,
- <sup>4</sup> **Their sound has gone out into all lands, \***  
**and their message to the ends of the world.**
- <sup>5</sup> In the deep you have 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.
- <sup>6</sup> **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.**
- <sup>7</sup> Your law, O God, is perfect  
and revives the soul; \*  
your testimony is sure  
and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- <sup>8</sup> **Your statutes are just**  
**and rejoice the heart; \***  
**your commandment is clear**  
**and gives light to the eyes.**
- <sup>9</sup> The fear of you is clean  
and endures for ever; \*  
your judgments are true  
and righteous altogether.
- <sup>10</sup> **More to be desired are they than gold,**  
**more than much fine gold, \***  
**sweeter far than honey,**  
**than honey in the comb.**
- <sup>11</sup> By them also is your servant enlightened, \*  
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- <sup>12</sup> **Who can discern unwitting sins? \***  
**cleanse me from my secret faults.**
- <sup>13</sup> 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.
- <sup>14</sup> **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my**  
**heart be acceptable in your sight, \***  
**O God, my strength and my redeemer.**

*At the end of the Psalm is said*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \***  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## The Lessons

### A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the 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.

*One* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.  
*Many* **Thanks be to God.**

### Canticle: A Song of Ezekiel (Ezekiel 36:24-28)

I will take you from among all nations; \*  
and gather you from all lands to bring you home.  
I will sprinkle clean water upon you; \*  
and purify you from false gods and uncleanness.  
A new heart I will give you \*  
and a new spirit put within you.  
I will take the stone heart from your chest \*  
and give you a heart of flesh.  
I will help you walk in my laws \*  
and cherish my commandments and do them.  
You shall be my people, \*  
and I will be your God.

*At the end of the Canticle is said*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \***  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## A Reading from The Gospel of John (2:13-22)

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.

*One* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*Many* **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon by Carmie McDonald, *Seminarian***

### **The Nicene Creed**

*All together*

**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,  
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.***

## The Prayers

*One* Let us now pray in the words our Savior Jesus Christ has taught us.

<i>Many</i>	<b>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,</b>	<b>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, for ever and ever. <i>Amen.</i></b>
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*One* Let us offer our prayers to the source of all love and all life, saying, "We pray to you, O God."

*One* Holy One, guard and direct your Church in the way of unity, service, and praise.

*Many* **We pray to you, O God.**

*One* Give to all nations an awareness of the unity of the human family.

*Many* **We pray to you, O God.**

*One* Cleanse our hearts of prejudice and selfishness, and inspire us to hunger and thirst for what is right.

*Many* **We pray to you, O God.**

*One* Teach us to use your creation for your greater praise, that all may share the good things you provide.

*Many* **We pray to you, O God.**

*One* Strengthen all who give their energy or skill for the healing of those who are sick in body or in mind.

*Many* **We pray to you, O God.**

*One* Set free all who are bound by fear and despair.

*Many* **We pray to you, O God.**

*One* Grant a peaceful end and eternal rest to all who are dying, and your comfort to those who mourn.

*Many* **We pray to you, O God.**

### *The Collect of the Day*

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. ***Amen.***

### *A Prayer for the Church*

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen***

*Intercessions and thanksgivings now follow either silently or aloud.*

## A General Thanksgiving

*All together*

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise  
for all that you have done for us.

We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation,  
for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life,  
and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends,  
and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks  
which demand our best efforts,  
and for leading us to accomplishments  
which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures  
that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ;  
for the truth of his Word and the example of his life;  
for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation;  
for his dying, through which he overcame death;  
and for his rising to life again,  
in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit,  
that we may know Christ and make Christ known;  
and through Christ, at all times and in all places,  
may give thanks to you in all things. *Amen.*

Hymn – O thou who camest from above (*Hereford*) – *Hymnal 1982* #704

1 O thou who cam - est from a - bove the fire ce -  
 2 There let it for thy glo - ry burn with ev - er -  
 3 Je - sus, con - firm my heart's de - sire to work, and  
 \* 4 Still let me prove thy per - fect will, my acts of

les - tial to im - part, kin - dle a flame of  
 bright, un - dy - ing blaze, and trem - bling to its  
 speak, and think for thee; still let me guard the  
 faith and love re - peat, till death thy end - less

sa - cred love up - on the al - tar of my heart.  
 source re - turn in hum - ble prayer and fer - vent praise.  
 ho - ly fire and still stir up the gift in me.  
 mer - cies seal, and make the sac - ri - fice com - plete.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Hereford*, Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

*A Closing Prayer*

Holy One, look with compassion upon your people as we again travel this Lenten journey. May we learn to know you more fully, and to serve you with a more perfect will; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Deacon* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
*Many* **Thanks be to God.**