

## **The Liturgy of the Word for the Third Sunday in Lent**

### **Sunday, March 7, 2021**

**Opening Hymn ~ There is a Longing** (*Music Packet, Pg. 2*)

*Officiant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**His mercy endures forever. Amen.**

#### The Penitential Order

*Officiant* Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel:

The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

*Officiant* Despite all that God has taught us, we still act foolishly; we are still weak.

In the cross of Christ, we find forgiveness and grace.

We confess our sins, trusting in God's wisdom and strength rather than our own.

**Merciful God,**

**how fickle we are; we sin against you without even knowing it.**

**Clear us, we pray, of any unknown sin, and save us from willfully ignoring your way.**

**Let your commandments rule and guide us.**

**Forgive us for worshiping anyone or anything except you; keep us faithful.**

**Forgive us for failing to honor all our relationships—**

**with those closest to us and those who are distant neighbors.**

**Help us to speak words of blessing and kindness,**

**rather than words that belittle or destroy.**

**Turn us away from violence, falsehood, and selfishness.**

**Forgive us for thinking everything depends on our efforts and power,**

**for you are the God who made us, led us out slavery,**

**and has brought us into the community of faith.**

**Help us to depend on you alone and to rest in your peace.**

**In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

*Officiant* Brothers and sisters,

in Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and coming again,

we are forgiven and set free to live in faithfulness

with God and with one another!

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

# Lord Have Mercy

Traditional

Diana Walworth



## The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The Lessons

Our First Reading is from **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. 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.

Honor 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 neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

*Reader* Here ends the reading.

Our Psalm for this morning is **Psalm 19** *Caeli enarrant*

1 The heavens declare the glory of God, \*  
and the firmament shows his handiwork.

**2 One day tells its tale to another, \***  
**and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

3 Although they have no words or language, \*  
and their voices are not heard,

**4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, \***  
**and their message to the ends of the world.**

5 In the deep has he 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.

**6 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.**

7 The law of the LORD is perfect  
and revives the soul; \*  
the testimony of the LORD is sure  
and gives wisdom to the innocent.

**8 The statutes of the LORD are just**  
**and rejoice the heart; \***  
**the commandment of the LORD is clear**  
**and gives light to the eyes.**

9 The fear of the LORD is clean  
and endures for ever; \*  
the judgments of the LORD are true  
and righteous altogether.

**10 More to be desired are they than gold,  
more than much fine gold, \*  
sweeter far than honey,  
than honey in the comb.**

11 By them also is your servant enlightened, \*  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

**12 Who can tell how often he offends? \*  
cleanse me from my secret faults.**

13 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.

**14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my  
heart be acceptable in your sight, \*  
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

Our Second Reading is from Paul's first letter to the **Corinthians** (1 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.

*Reader* Here ends the reading.

**Hymn ~ From Ashes to the Living Font** (*Music Packet, pg. 3*)

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **John** (*John 2:13-22*)

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon *Our sermon this morning is from Cindy Corner*

The Nicene Creed

**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:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**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 and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He 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 of the People

*Officiant:* Holy God,  
you have called us to live before you and with one another in all faithfulness.  
Unable to live as you intend, we inflict harm and hurt on others and on ourselves as well.  
In all these ways, we know we grieve your heart also.  
Hear, then, our prayers of intercession.  
Restore us to communion with you and one another  
that we might live in the freedom you have bestowed.

We pray for people who are victims of crime, from petty theft to murder.  
We pray that those harmed will find healing and will dwell in safety.  
Hold especially close to your heart, O God, those who have lost a loved one to violence;  
and help us to offer tenderness and care in their struggles and grief.  
We pray also for those who have committed crimes,  
that they may seek and find forgiveness,  
and begin a new life of responsibility and integrity  
before you and in the community.

*(Please offer names)*

We pray for healing and reconciliation where trust  
has been broken, hostility has flared,  
or misunderstanding has grown.  
Restore us not only to one another,  
but reconcile us to ourselves and to you, loving God.  
If restoration proves beyond hope,  
then grant new beginnings and possibilities for all.  
In every relationship, we seek your grace as we honor others  
by caring for them, being truthful, and working for their welfare.  
Root out in us any jealousy toward what others possess,  
and let generosity grow in and among us instead.

We pray for the leaders of the world and all those who hold authority over people.  
Grant them a measure of your grace and mercy  
that they may govern with compassion and care for all.  
Help them to bring peace among nations as they serve their people with integrity.  
*(Please pray for our nations' leaders and those serving in the military)*

We pray for the Church, that she may grow  
in witness to your glory and your mission of love.  
For Bonnie, our bishop; Michael, our presiding bishop;  
Stewart and Wendell, retired bishops.  
Do not let us turn inward as a church,  
lest we shut out or neglect  
those who long for a community of welcome  
and companionship.  
*(Please pray for the Church and our partners in ministry)*

We pray for those who are ill, in mind, body, or spirit;  
for those lonely and isolated from community;  
for those burdened by guilt or grief,  
by depression or despair.  
*(Please offer names of those in need)*

We pray for all who have died and all who mourn their loss.  
Welcome the deceased into your loving arms  
and grant comfort and peace to those left behind.  
*(Please offer names)*

We pray for our college students. *(Please offer names)*  
We pray for those with birthdays and anniversaries. *(Please offer names)*  
We give you thanks for all our joys and thanksgivings. *(Please pray)*

Lord, send us out in love, with open eyes, ears, and hearts.  
Make us true neighbors to one another  
and true children of your own calling.  
We pray in the name of Christ,  
who has come to set us free. **Amen.**

A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God  
**God of all power and love,**  
**we give thanks for your unfailing presence**  
**and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.**  
**Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.**

**Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world:  
a people who pray, worship, learn,  
break bread, share life, heal neighbors,  
bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.  
Wherever and however we gather,  
unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission,  
that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Offering

*Officiant* Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name;  
bring offerings and come into his courts. *Psalms 96:8*

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

**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  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The General Thanksgiving

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;**



but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up ourselves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. *Amen.*

Solemn Prayer

*Officiant* Bow down before the Lord.

*Priest* Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God, that by your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord. Amen. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn #149 ~ Eternal Lord of Love** (*Music Packet, pg. 6*)

*Officiant* In the Lenten week ahead, study God's commandments,  
practice the way of life they teach, and see how God's laws revive your soul.  
**Thanks be to God.**