

**March 3, 2024**

**Third Sunday in Lent**

**Old Testament:** Exodus 20:1-17

A reading from the Book of Exodus:

<sup>1</sup>Then God spoke all these words: <sup>2</sup>I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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.

<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. <sup>13</sup>You shall not murder. <sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup>You shall not steal. <sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. <sup>17</sup>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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Psalm:** Psalm 19

The Psalm will be chanted

- <sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of **God**, \*  
and the firmament shows his **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 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**.
- <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> The law of the Lord is perfect  
and revives the **soul**; \*  
the testimony of the Lord is sure  
and gives wisdom to the **innocent**.
- <sup>8</sup> The statutes of the Lord are just  
and rejoice the **heart**; \*  
the commandment of the Lord is clear  
and gives light to the **eyes**.
- <sup>9</sup> The fear of the Lord is clean  
and endures for **ever**; \*  
the judgments of the Lord 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 tell how often he **offends**? \*

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 Lord, my strength and my **redeemer**.

## **Second Lesson:** 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

<sup>18</sup>For 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. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." <sup>20</sup>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? <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## **Gospel:** John 2:13-22

Celebrant:           The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
Congregation:      Glory to you, Lord Christ

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers

seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>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

Congregation: Praise to you, Lord Christ