

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT, Year B

Season of lent

First Reading [longer form] † Exodus 20:1-17

The Law was given through Moses.

A reading from the book of Exodus

Then God spoke all these words. He said,

‘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 yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven above or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth.

‘You shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish a parent’s fault in the children, to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me; but I act with faithful love towards thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

‘You shall not misuse 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 for the Lord your God. You shall do no work that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your slaves, men or women, nor your animals nor the foreigner living with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens, earth and sea and all that these contain, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the Sabbath day and made it sacred.

‘Honour your father and your mother so that you may live 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 give false evidence against your neighbour.

‘You shall not covet your neighbour’s house. You shall not covet your neighbour’s spouse, or slave, man or woman, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.’

The word of the Lord.

First Reading [shorter form] † Exodus 20:1-3,7-8,12-17

The Law was given through Moses.

A reading from the book of Exodus

Then God spoke all these words. He said,

‘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 misuse 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.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may live 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 give false evidence against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's spouse, or slave, man or woman, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial # Psalm 18:8-11

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The law of the Lord is perfect;
it revives the soul.

The decrees of the Lord are steadfast;
they give wisdom to the simple.

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The precepts of the Lord are right;
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear;
it gives light to the eyes.

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The fear of the Lord is pure,
abiding for ever.

The judgements of the Lord are true;
they are, all of them, righteous.

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

They are more to be desired than gold,
than quantities of gold.

And sweeter are they than honey,
than honey flowing from the comb.

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

Second Reading # 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

We are preaching a crucified Christ, a scandal to many, but to those who have been called, the wisdom of God.

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

While the Jews demand signs and the Greeks seek wisdom, we are proclaiming a crucified Christ: to the Jews a stumbling-block, to the gentiles foolishness, but to those who have been called, both Jews and Greeks, a Christ who is both the power of God and the wisdom of God.

God's folly is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation † John 3:16

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel † John 2:13-25

Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The time of the Jewish Passover was near and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and doves, and the money changers sitting there. Making a whip out of cords, he began to drive them all out of the Temple, both sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers' coins, overturned their tables and said to the dove sellers,

‘Take all this away from here and stop making my Father’s house a market-house.’

Then his disciples remembered that it had been written, *I am eaten up with zeal for your house*. The Jews in reply said,

‘What sign can you show us for doing this?’

Jesus answered,

‘Destroy this Temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’

The Jews replied,

‘It took forty-six years to build this Temple: are you going to raise it up in three days?’

But he was speaking about the Temple that was his body. When he had been raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words that he had spoken.

While he was in Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he did, but Jesus did not trust himself to them, since he knew all people. He needed no witness about anyone; he himself knew what was in everyone.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Third Week of Lent | Monday of the third week of Lent