

Holy Eucharist

March 3, 2024

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=eig4MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3l2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: 782611

The Third Sunday in Lent, 3B

Prelude



All stand as they are able

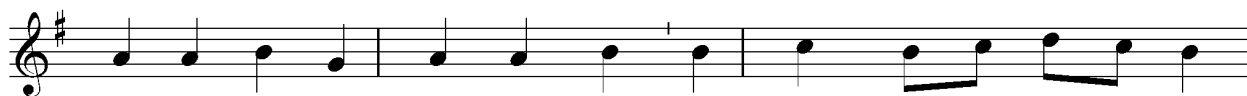
Entrance Hymn

The glory of these forty days

Hymnal 143



- 1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we
- 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the
- 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -
- 4 Then grant us, Lord, like them to be full
- * 5 O Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit blest, to



- 1 ce - le - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
- 2 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
- 3 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
- 4 oft in fast and prayer with thee; our spi - rits strength - en
- 5 thee be ev - ery prayer ad - dressed, who art in three - fold



- 1 things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
- 2 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
- 3 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
- 4 with thy grace, and give us joy to see thy face.
- 5 Name a - dored, from age to age, the on - ly Lord.

Presider

Bless the Lord + who forgives all our sins.

People

God's mercy endures forever.

Decalogue: the Ten Commandments

Presider Hear the commandments of God to God's people:
I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.
You shall have no other gods but me.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Honor your father and your mother.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit murder.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not steal.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not be a false witness.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Presider Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your 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 commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Presider and People

**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 our Savior 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.**

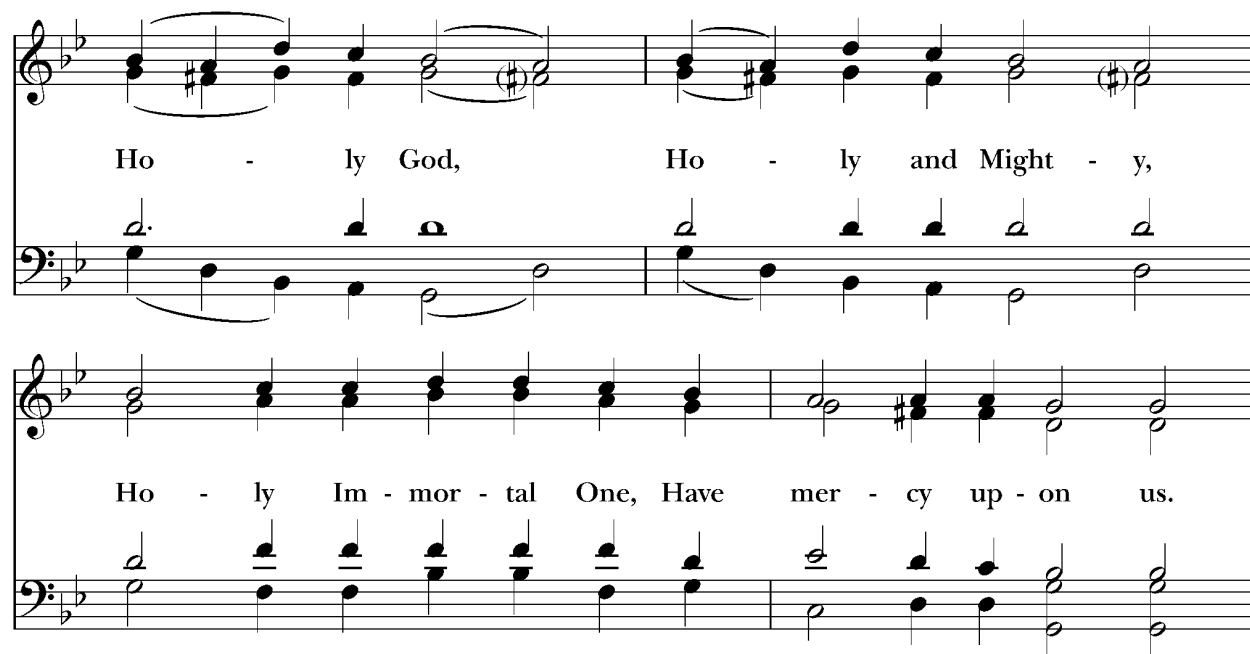
A Priest stands and says

Almighty God + have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

Trisagion: Holy God

S 102

sing through 3 times



Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has two staves: a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature, and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The second system also has two staves with the same key signature and time signature, and lyrics written below the treble staff. The music is primarily chordal, with some melodic lines in the bass.

Collect of the Day

Presider God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

First Reading

Exodus 20:1-17

A Reading from the book of Exodus.

¹God spoke all these words [to Moses on Mount Sinai]:

²“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You 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. ⁵You 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, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But 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. ¹¹For 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.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You 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 The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Remain seated

Psalm 19 *to be prayed responsively, beginning with the lectern side of the church*

¹The 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.

³Although 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.

⁵In 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.

⁷The 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.**

⁹The 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.**

¹¹By 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.**

¹³Above 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.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

A Reading from Paul's First letter to the Church in Corinth.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,
“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where 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? ²¹For 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. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand as they are able.

Sequence Hymn

When Christ went to the Temple

Tune: *Llangloffan*



When Christ went to the Temple to worship God one day,
 There, cattle, sheep and pigeons were sold for sacrifice,
 When prayer gave way to profit, and pride closed many doors,
 O God, you love the nations and call us all to pray.



He entered through the courtyard where anyone could pray.
 And money-changers shouted of quality and price.
 The Lord cried out in anger and made a whip of cords.
 Forgive us when our worship turns other folk away.



That court was for the nations — and all could enter in.
 Outsiders could not enter the inner courts for prayer.
 He shoed the sheep and cattle and scattered pigeons, too.
 As Christ, in loving protest, fought prejudice and pride,



But Jesus found a market, a shameful robbers' den.
 Their only place to worship was in the courtyard there.
 God's house was for all people — not for a chosen few.
 May we who follow Jesus now welcome all inside.



Holy Gospel

John 2:13-22

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making 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. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After 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.



Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

Bill Stech

All then stand as they are able.

Nicene Creed

Presider Let us affirm the faith of the Church using the words of 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,
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 [and the Son],
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.**

All remain standing, or kneel, as they are able.

Prayers of the People

Presider Sisters and brothers, children of God, we come before the Holy One in our own brokenness, in need of grace and favor. We trust in the promise God has made to hear our prayers in the name of Jesus.

Intercessor We pray for wisdom, courage, and strength for all of your followers, especially those in leadership of your church. Set their hearts on you alone.

Silence is kept.

We pray for the leaders of the nations, that they protect and provide for their people and work for peace and justice.

Silence is kept.

We are abundantly blessed, and praise you for your goodness and care of us. We are grateful today for [_____ and] all you so graciously give us. **Have mercy on us. Set our hearts on you alone.**

Silence is kept.

We pray for those who struggle with disappointments, with financial insecurities, with grief over lost loved ones, or lost dreams. We pray for relief of pain for those whose bodies and hearts ache. We ask for healing for [_____ and] all who suffer. **Have mercy on us. Set our hearts on you alone.**

We pray for those who have died and now rest in your eternal embrace [remembering especially _____]. Comfort the loved ones who mourn their loss. **Have mercy on us. Set our hearts on you alone.**

Presider All this we ask, O Lord, in the strong name of Jesus, the one who lived and moved among us in our broken world, and who loves us still. **Amen.**

All then stand as they are able.

Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and the People may offer God's peace to one another in the name of the Lord.

The People then are seated.

Announcements

Holy Communion

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

Psalm 50:14

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the Presider.

The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar

Offertory Hymn

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

The people remain standing as they are able

Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Presider proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Presider continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them + by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us + also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Presider then continues

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

The Presider says

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore, let us keep the feast.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

When all who desire have received, the Presider says

Let us pray.

The Presider then says

Let us pray.

Presider and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Dismissal and Blessing

Presider Lord, when we pity ourselves and think we make great sacrifices for others:
People **Remind us of your life-giving sacrifice on the Cross.**

Lord, when our patience wears thin, and we are ready to give up:

Speak to us through the example of your endurance on the Cross.

Lord, when we get angry and wish to retaliate against our enemies:

Bring to our remembrance your words to your enemies from the Cross.

Lord, when we feel rejected or persecuted for doing what is right and good:

Sustain us by the knowledge of how you were reviled and rejected on the Cross.

Lord, when we suffer pain of body or anguish of mind in this life:

Keep us near the Cross.

Lord, when we are afraid to stand for that which is true and honorable:

Strengthen us with the courage with which you went to the Cross.

Lord, when we feel alone in the world, forsaken and forgotten:

Comfort us with your love made known on the Cross.

Lord, when we come to the time of our own death:

Uphold us with the assurance that life did not end for you on the Cross. Lord,
when we are tempted by despair or fear of what lies ahead:

**Fill us with the hope of resurrection and new life which are the fruits of your
Cross. Amen.**

A priest then blesses the people, saying

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all + evermore. **Amen.** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

Concluding Hymn

No, not one!

LEVAS 90

1. There's not a friend like the low - ly Je - sus,
 2. No friend like Him is so high and ho - ly,
 3. There's not an hour that He is not near us,
 4. Did ev - er saint find this Friend for - sake Him?
 5. Was e'er a gift like the Sav - ior giv - en?

1. No, not one! no, not one! None else could heal all our
 2. No, not one! no, not one! And yet no friend is so
 3. No, not one! no, not one! No night so dark but His
 4. No, not one! no, not one! Or sin - ner find that He
 5. No, not one! no, not one! Will He re - fuse us a

1. soul's dis - eas - es, No, not one! no, not one!
 2. meek and low - ly, No, not one! no, not one!
 3. Love can cheer us, No, not one! no, not one!
 4. would not take him? No, not one! no, not one!
 5. home in heav - en? No, not one! no, not one!

Je - sus knows all a - bout our strug - gles, He will guide till the day is done;

There's not a friend like the low - ly Je - sus, No, not one! no, not one!

The Sending Forth

Minister And now, my sisters and brothers in Christ, I bid you go out as did St Barnabas, the Encourager. Go out with joy and in peace, to love and serve our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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This week in prayer

Please remember these persons and congregations in your prayers this week:

Our Bishops Bonnie, Michael, Justin, Moises (TEC); Elizabeth, Donald and Craig (ELCA)
and for all priests, deacons, Ministry Teams, and those in formation

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

March 3 The Church of the Province of Uganda

Diocese of Michigan Cycle of Prayer:

March 3 Holy Cross, Novi, St Stephen's. Hamburg; James the Apostle, Angelina, DR

St Barnabas Cycle of Prayer: Kathy O, Melanie, Larry

and our continuing prayers for: Jim M, Mardi, Pat, Robert, Selenah

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Faith in Action provides leadership in collecting donations to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas. They are in need of our continuing help. You may bring your donations to FIA, or to Nancy who will see that they get there. **If you bring food directly to FIA**, please let Nancy know, so she can continue to keep our records of donation. If you write a check, please make it to *Faith In Action*. **The next Food Drive at the church is March 17.** Please contribute as generously as you can.

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Upcoming Commemorations

- March 03 John and Charles Wesley, Priests, 1791, 1788
- 04 Paul Cuffee: Witness to the Faith among the Shinnecock, 1812
- 06 William W. Mayo, 1911, and Charles F. Menninger, 1953, and Their Sons,
Pioneers in Medicine
- 07 Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs, 202
- 08 Geoffrey Anketell Studdert Kennedy: Priest, 1929
- 09 Gregory of Nyssa, Bishop and Theologian, c. 394

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BIBLE STUDIES THAT WORK

Lent 3B March 3, 2024

Exodus 20:1-17

This week's Old Testament reading begins with God reminding the Hebrew people that God has delivered them from slavery in Egypt. God's nature is to liberate. God desires to set God's people free, both physically and spiritually. The Bible teaches us that true freedom is found through relationship with God. This reminder is followed by the Ten Commandments, also called the Decalogue, which provides structure for this life of freedom that God has gifted the Hebrew people.

The commandments teach the Hebrews (and us) the basics about how we are to relate to God and to one another. The first two commandments, having no other god before God and refraining from idol worship, seem simple to keep, but the ancient Hebrews struggled with them, and likewise so do we. It is so easy to make idols out of money, technology, wealth, status, pleasure, perfectionism, success. When we do this, we forfeit the freedom that God wants us to have and enslave ourselves to these idols.

The third commandment, about keeping God's name holy, can be hard for our modern minds to grasp, but the reverence with which we treat God helps us put God above any person or experience and protects us from falling into idol worship. The fourth commandment instructs God's people that they must rest and reserve the day for God. These first four commandments provide a foundation for the ones that follow, reminding us that our relationship with God forms the foundation for ethical interactions with people.

The fifth through ninth commandments require us to care for our parents in their old age and to refrain from murder, adultery, theft, and lying. The last commandment reminds us to cut off sin at its root, to stop ourselves when we desire what other people have, lest our desires escalate into harmful actions.

- What idols do you think are the most common in today's culture, and how can we turn away from them and focus our worship on God?
- As Christians, how do we observe the spirit of the Sabbath, deliberately setting aside time for rest and spiritual growth?

Psalm 19

The first line of Psalm 19 begins, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows his handiwork." With natural imagery, the psalmist praises God for the beauty and wonder of creation. Day and night are personified, pointing to the wonder of the order of the cosmos and the miracle of the creation of time.

Beginning in verse 7, the psalmist then praises God for the law and the structure it provides. This echoes the theme of liberation in today's passage from Exodus, that the structure and ethical way of life provided by God are meant to set us free. The psalmist says of God's judgments, "More to be desired are they than gold... sweeter far than honey" (Ps 19:10). So often, the word "judgment" causes anxiety, but the psalm reminds us that we are to look forward to God's judgments because they will bring justice and peace.

Finally, verses 12-13 ask God for spiritual cleansing. Perhaps the Collect for Purity, which we pray at the beginning of each Eucharist, was influenced by Psalm 19. Near the end of the psalm, the psalmist asks to be made "whole and sound." The psalmist encourages us to trust in God's goodness and God's ability to complete us.

- What experiences of nature point you toward God's glory?

- What do you think about the psalmist’s view of God’s judgments as being desirable and sweet?

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Paul writes passionately to the church at Corinth about his identity as a Christian and the centrality of the cross. Paul says that Christians “proclaim Christ crucified.” To die on the cross was not only shameful to Jews, but it was understood to be a kind of curse (cf. Deuteronomy 21:23). To Gentiles who followed the state religion, it was complete foolishness to worship a crucified god. The cross was a source of ridicule—why would a god allow himself to be executed in such a horrific way?

At first, Paul himself did not believe the story of a crucified Messiah. He persecuted Christians until his encounter with the risen Jesus on the way to Damascus. Now, he proclaims the Gospel to anyone who will listen, and, again and again, he must explain to a shocked audience about his crucified Lord. He must explain how Jesus’ death on the cross is not an example of God’s weakness but of God’s power.

The cross remains central to the Christian story: The God who created the universe out of nothing can turn the most unimaginable evil into joy and new life. God can do the impossible, and God’s ways are completely unexpected, defying the understanding of the most educated people. Human reason can only take us so far because God’s wisdom will always surpass it.

- Does the cross still defy the wisdom of the world in our time?
- How can we better proclaim Christ crucified to a world hungry for hope?

John 2:13-22

Some people think that the Gospel of John emphasizes Jesus’ divinity over his humanity. However, in John’s Gospel for today, we see Jesus struggling with a very human emotion: anger. Corruption and greed have crept into God’s house. Using a whip, Jesus drives from the temple of all who have made it into a marketplace. He overturns the tables. He causes quite a chaotic scene, with people, coins, and livestock being scattered.

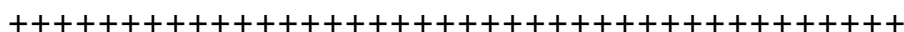
This is not the image that we usually think of when we think of Jesus. Most of us tend to imagine Jesus on the cross or at the empty tomb; we imagine Jesus teaching, healing, feeding, or gathering little children to him. When we display images of Jesus in our homes or churches, we are unlikely to select an image of an angry Jesus making a mess of the temple. This is a disruptive Jesus, one who would not be ignored, nor can we ignore this side of Jesus.

This story is an opportunity to grow in our understanding of who Jesus was, to more fully comprehend that Jesus was truly human and that, although he did not sin, he understands our weaknesses (cf. Hebrews 14:5).

Following this disruption, Jesus speaks of himself as the temple and says that it will be raised after three days. Although the Pharisees and disciples did not understand what he meant at the time, the disciples understood the meaning after Jesus’ death: Jesus replaces the temple; Jesus himself is the ultimate offering of love, reconciling us to God.

- What does this passage tell us about righteous anger?
- Is it hard for you to imagine Jesus with a whip, turning over tables, and yelling or speaking sternly?

This Bible study was written by Erica Anderson.



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Our Mission:

We seek to grow as diverse disciples of Jesus Christ, and to serve Jesus by serving others in the world, guided by the values of Ancient Rites, Open Minds, and Affirming Hearts.



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