

March Readings

March 2/3

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Lent 3

First Reader

A Reading from the Book of 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 labor 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. The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 19 (People read after the asterisk)

- 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.**

Second Reader

A Reading from Paul's First Letter 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. The Word of the Lord.

Lent 4

First Reader**A Reading from Numbers 21:4-9**

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live. The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22**(People read alternate verses)**

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, and his mercy endures for ever.

**2 Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.**

3 He gathered them out of the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

**17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways;
they were afflicted because of their sins.**

18 They abhorred all manner of food and drew near to death's door.

**19 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.**

20 He sent forth his word and healed them and saved them from the grave.

**21 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy
and the wonders he does for his children.**

22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

Second Reader

A Reading From the Letter to the Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved - and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God - not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. The Word of the Lord.

March 14

Second Thursday

First Reader

A Reading from Exodus 32:7-14

The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people. The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 106:6-7, 19-23

(People read after the asterisk)

- 6 We have sinned as our forebears did; *
 we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.
- 7 In Egypt they did not consider your marvelous works,
 nor remember the abundance of your love; *
 they defied the Most High at the Red Sea.
- 19 Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb * **and worshiped a molten image;**
- 20 And so they exchanged their Glory *
 for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.
- 21 They forgot God their Savior, * **who had done great things in Egypt,**
- 22 Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, * **and fearful things at the Red Sea.**
- 23 So he would have destroyed them,
 had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, *
 to turn away his wrath from consuming them.

Lent 5

First Reader**A Reading from the Prophet Jeremiah 31:31-34**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt - a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more. The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 119:9-16 (People read the even verses)

- 9 How shall a young man cleanse his way? By keeping to your words.
- 10 With my whole heart I seek you;
let me not stray from your commandments.**
- 11 I treasure your promise in my heart, that I may not sin against you.
- 12 Blessed are you, O Lord; instruct me in your statutes.**
- 13 With my lips will I recite * all the judgments of your mouth.
- 14 I have taken greater delight in the way of your decrees
than in all manner of riches.**
- 15 I will meditate on your commandments and give attention to your ways.
- 16 My delight is in your statutes; I will not forget your word.**

Second Reader

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews 5:5-10

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek. The Word of the Lord.

Palm Sunday

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens - wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (People respond after the asterisk.)

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; * **his mercy endures for ever.**
- 2 Let Israel now proclaim, * **"His mercy endures for ever."**
- 19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; *
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the LORD.
- 20 "This is the gate of the LORD; * **he who is righteous may enter."**
- 21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me * **and have become my salvation.**
- 22 The same stone which the builders rejected * **has become the chief cornerstone.**
- 23 This is the LORD's doing, * **and it is marvelous in our eyes.**
- 24 On this day the LORD has acted; * **we will rejoice and be glad in it.**
- 25 Hosannah, LORD, hosannah! * **LORD, send us now success.**
- 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; *
we bless you from the house of the LORD.
- 27 God is the LORD; he has shined upon us; *
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.

continued

28 "You are my God, and I will thank you; * **you are my God, and I will exalt you.**"

29 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; * **his mercy endures for ever.**

Second Reader

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. The Word of the Lord.

Easter Eve/Day

First Reader**A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43**

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ - he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24**(People respond after the asterisk.)**

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; * **his mercy endures for ever.**
- 2 Let Israel now proclaim, * **"His mercy endures for ever."**
- 14 The LORD is my strength and my song, * **and he has become my salvation.**
- 15 There is a sound of exultation and victory * **in the tents of the righteous:**
- 16 "The right hand of the LORD has triumphed! *
the right hand of the LORD is exalted!
the right hand of the LORD has triumphed!"
- 17 I shall not die, but live, * **and declare the works of the LORD.**
- 18 The LORD has punished me sorely, * **but he did not hand me over to death.**
- 19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; *
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the LORD.

continued

20 "This is the gate of the LORD; * **he who is righteous may enter.**"

21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me * **and have become my salvation.**

22 The same stone which the builders rejected * **has become the chief cornerstone.**

23 This is the LORD's doing, * **and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

24 On this day the LORD has acted; * **we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

Second Reader

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 15:1-11

I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you - unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them - though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe. The Word of the Lord.