

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Year C

ENTRANCE HYMN

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him,
for he is your health and salvation.
All you who hear,
now to his altar draw near,
join in profound adoration.
2. Praise to the Lord, let us offer
our gifts at his altar;
let not our sins and transgressions
now cause us to falter.
Christ, the High Priest,
bids us all join in his feast;
victims with him on the altar.



1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)
3. The Lord does deeds of justice,
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons. (R.)
4. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him. (R.)

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15
I Am has sent me to you.

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 102:1-4. 6-8. 11. R] v. 8

R. The Lord is compassion and love.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 10: 1-6. 10-12
The life of the people under Moses in the desert was written down to be a lesson for us.

I want to remind you, brothers, how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 4:17

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
Repent, says the Lord,
for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 13:1-9

Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that

were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

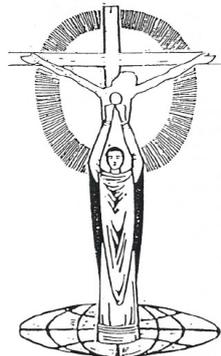
He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."'

The Gospel of the Lord.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 Creator of heaven and earth,
 and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
(All bow)
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died and was buried;
 he descended into hell;
 on the third day he rose again from the dead;
 he ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of God the Father
 almighty;
 from there he will come to judge the living and the
 dead,

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and life everlasting.
 Amen.



OFFERTORY HYMN

Lord, accept this bread and wine;
 Take our hearts and make them Thine.
 Take our work and our anxiety
 Give us life and liberty.

Change this bread into your body
 and this wine into your blood;
 Change our lives, make us united, Lord,
 to spread the love of Christ, the Lord.

COMMUNION HYMNS

1. God of mercy and compassion,
 Look with pity upon me,
 Father, let me call Thee Father,
 'Tis Thy child returns to Thee.
*Jesus, Lord, I ask for mercy;
 Let me not implore in vain;
 All my sins, I now detest them,
 Never will I sin again.*
2. By my sins I have deserved
 Death and endless misery,
 Hell with all its pains and torments,
 And for all eternity.
3. By my sins I have abandoned
 Right and claim to heav'n above.
 Where the saints rejoice forever
 In a boundless sea of love.
4. See our Saviour, bleeding, dying,
 On the cross of Calvary;
 To that cross my sins have nail'd Him,
 Yet He bleeds and dies for me.

1. Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless
 Your chosen pilgrim flock
 With manna in the wilderness,
 With water from the rock.
2. We would not live by bread alone,
 But by Thy Word of grace,
 In strength of which we travel on
 to our abiding place.
3. Be known to us in breaking bread,
 But do not then depart;
 Saviour, abide with us, and spread
 Your table in our heart.
4. Lord, dine with us in love divine;
 Your body and your blood,
 That living bread, that heav'nly wine,
 Be our immortal food.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

1. Lord, who throughout these forty days
 for us didst fast and pray,
 teach us with thee to mourn our sins,
 and at thy side to stay.
2. As thou with Satan didst contend,
 and didst the victory win,
 O give us strength in thee to fight,
 in thee to conquer sin.

