

Readings for 7th March 2021 - LENT 3

A reading from Exodus chapter 20 beginning at verse 1. [20.1-17]

1 Then God spoke all these words:

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.

4 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.

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.

7 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.

8 Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.

⁹For six days you shall labour 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.

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

13 You shall not murder.

14 You shall not commit adultery.

15 You shall not steal.

16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

17 You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19

1. The heavens declare the glory of God: and the firmament proclaims his handiwork;

2. One day tells it to another: and night to night communicates knowledge.

3. There is no speech or language: nor are their voices heard;

4. Yet their sound has gone out through all the world: and their words to the ends of the earth.

5. There he has pitched a tent for the sun:

which comes out as a bridegroom from his chamber, and rejoices like a strong man to run his course.

6. Its rising is at one end of the heavens, and its circuit to their farthest bound: and nothing is hidden from its heat.

7. The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul:

the command of the Lord is true, and makes wise the simple.

8. The precepts of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, and gives light to the eyes.

9. The fear of the Lord is clean, and endures for ever:

the judgements of the Lord are unchanging, and righteous every one.

10. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold: sweeter also than honey, than the honey that drips from the comb.

11. Moreover, by them is your servant taught: and in keeping them there is a great reward.

12. Who can know their own unwitting sins?: O cleanse me from my secret faults.

13. Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins, lest they get the mastery over me: so I shall be clean, and innocent of great offence.

14. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight: O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Glory to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit: // as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen

A reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians chapter 1 beginning at verse 18. [1.18-25]

18 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.

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 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.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John chapter 2 beginning at verse 13. [2.13-22]

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

13 The 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 market-place!'

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.