

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Mt 4:17

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

**GOSPEL** Lk 13:1-9

P. The Lord be with you.  
**R. And with your spirit.**

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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.

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

**HOMILY****PROFESSION OF FAITH** APOSTLES' CREED

*Or the Nicene Creed may be said.*

**I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / 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.**

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL****LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

*After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:*

**R. Blessed be God for ever.**

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

P. Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings, and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins, may take care to forgive our neighbour. Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

**THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Lift up your hearts.

**R. We lift them up to the Lord.**

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**R. It is right and just.**

**PREFACE I OR II OF LENT**

*After the Preface, we sing or say:*

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. 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 MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION**

P. The mystery of faith.

**All: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

**COMMUNION RITE**

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven . . .**

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray . . .

**All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said . . .

**R. Amen.**

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace.*

**LAMB OF GOD**

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** cf. Ps 83:4-5

**The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young; by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P. As we receive the pledge of things yet hidden in heaven and are nourished while still on earth with the Bread that comes from

on high, we humbly entreat you, O Lord, that what is being brought about in us in mystery may come to true completion. Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

**THE CONCLUDING RITES**

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son,  $\text{X}$  and the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**BREAKING OPEN THE WORD****CALL TO REPENT**

For the people of Israel, the Exodus was understood to be the series of events that forged them as a people. When Moses is commissioned to go to the people and tell them what God is about to do for them, Moses asks for God's name. In reply, he is given the riddle of God's name in Hebrew that means 'I am who I am, I have been who I have been, I will be who I will be'. Moses and the people are invited to enter into a mystery. On the journey towards the land of promise, they will discover who God is, and who they are as God's people.

Paul uses the example of Israel's time in the desert to lead his wayward converts of Corinth to partake in the celebration of the Eucharist in a fitting manner. Some of them felt that they could eat meat that had already been sacrificed to idols, while others were scandalising their brothers and sisters by being drunk when the poor arrived for the Eucharist. They are forcefully reminded that even the people of Israel in the desert who ate the spiritual food and drink that God provided could be punished. In other words, there is no room for any complacency or arrogance that would justify us disregarding others.

In the Gospel too, Jesus challenges the complacency of his hearers. He makes use of contemporary events in Jerusalem to shock and unsettle. Ultimately, we are reminded of God's forbearance and mercy but are also called to make the most of the present opportunity to repent.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

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# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT / C****20 MARCH 2022**

UNLESS YOU REPENT. When misfortune strikes people considered to be sinners, others might say: 'They had it coming! God is punishing them!' In today's Gospel Jesus criticises such attitudes on two grounds. Firstly, it is wrong to see the wrath of God in every tragic event. Secondly, we need to recognise that we are all guilty of sin and in need of conversion. Instead of judging others, let us ask God to forgive our sins and help us as we undertake the difficult task of reform.

**INTRODUCTORY RITES**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** cf. Ps 24:15-16

**My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.**

**GREETING**

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**R. And with your spirit.**

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

**All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, (striking the breast) through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**R. Amen.**

V. Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

V. Christ, have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

V. Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

*The Gloria is not said during Lent.*

**COLLECT**

P. O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, by your mercy. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.  
**R. Amen.**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD****FIRST READING**

Ex 3:1-8, 13-15

**A reading from the book of Exodus**

*This is what you must say to the children of Israel: 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.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**RESP PSALM**

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

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful.**

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.**

**SECOND READING** 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12

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

*All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.*

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.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**