

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

When I prove my holiness among you, I will gather you from all the foreign lands; and I will pour clean water upon you and cleanse you from all your impurities, and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us.....
Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

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, may always be lifted up by your mercy. Through our Lord Jesus Christ ...

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *Exodus 20:1-17 (or shorter version in italics*20:1-3. 7-8.12-17) A reading from the book of Exodus*

**God spoke all these words. He said, '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 gods except me.**

'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

***You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.*

*'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy.** For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, nor your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

**Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.*

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

The word of the Lord.*
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps. 18:8-11*

R. You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.

- The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. **(R)**
- The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. **(R)**
- The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. **(R)**
- They are more to be desired than gold, than the purest of gold
and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb. **(R)**

SECOND READING *1 Corinthians 1:22- 25 A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians.*

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power 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.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son; everyone who believes in him has eternal life.

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

GOSPEL *John 2:13-25*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple

he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said. During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

All bow for following three lines:

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day 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. I 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 adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters
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
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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER
The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right and just.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION
THE MYSTERY OF FAITH.
We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION
Behold the Lamb of God,
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
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

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.

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Direct, O Lord, we pray, the hearts of your faithful, and in your kindness grant your servants this grace: that, abiding in the love of you and their neighbour, they may fulfil the whole of your commands. Through Christ our Lord.

CONCLUDING RITE

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**
May the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**
Go in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

focus on sunday

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 3rd March 2024

Jesus will die but will be raised to new life.
He will rebuild the sanctuary in three days.



THE REAL TEMPLE
IS INSIDE
OF EACH OF US

**Zeal for your house will consume me'**

In a rare occurrence, we hear of Jesus' anger in today's scripture as he loses his cool with those selling goods in the most sacred place of worship, the Jerusalem Temple. The goods sold in the Temple markets were used in sacrifices so that people could be considered ritually clean in order to be closer to God. It was a model of religion that was exploitative and needed challenging. Jesus is overcome with righteous anger because of the injustice he sees before him; this sacred place (*hieros*) was now a marketplace. What sacred places have we turned into marketplaces today? Our economic systems are driven by profit at the expense of our environment and at the expense of the world's poorest people. Mother Earth cries out to us to stop making this household a marketplace.

In October 2023, Pope Francis published another teaching on the environment, called Laudate Deum, meaning Praise Be! Pope Francis calls on world leaders to urgently take the steps needed to ensure a safe world for future generations. He calls for an urgent switch to clean energy, he criticises the slow progress of governments on this issue, and to people of good will he says: "The world sings of an infinite love, how can we fail to care for it?" Each of us are called to do our part. Jesus displays a righteous anger in the Gospel today, standing up for those who are oppressed by an unfair system. In this spirit of love and compassion may we too hear the cry of those made poor and the cry of the earth; may we call for the restoration of this sacred place, our common home. Let us pray this week that 'zeal for your house will consume' us and that we will take the necessary steps to ensure a liveable world for all.

These reflections are extracts from *The Deep End – A Journey Through the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Mark*, Messenger Publications, Dublin, 2023. (Jane Mellett and Triona Doherty).

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey

Jesus' Story today tells us that every temple and church is a sign of God's Love and reminds us that God is The Giver of all gifts and you and I are His Best Gifts. Every church is a sign that God wants us to care and share with each other. When we forget God, we forget God's people and God does not want us to be mean or greedy because that does not make us happy.