

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Third Sunday of Lent



The Cleansing of the Temple

by Carl Heinrich Bloch (1834-1890)

The Parish Mass

*live streamed from the Vicarage
during the Coronavirus Pandemic*

Sunday 7th March 2021

10.15 am

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

† In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All Amen.

The Greeting

All The Lord our redeemer be with you
and also with you.

The service is introduced

Prayers of Penitence

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
in this holy season of Lent
as we prepare to celebrate the presence of Christ
let us firmly resolve to keep God's commandments,
and confess our sins in penitence and faith:

The Ten Commandments

All I am the Lord your God: you shall have no other gods but me.
Lord have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep these laws.

All You shall not make for yourself any idol.
Lord have mercy upon us.

All You shall not dishonour the name of the Lord your God.
Lord, have mercy upon us,

All Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
and incline our hearts to keep these laws.

All Honour your father and mother.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

All You shall not commit murder.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

All You shall not commit adultery.
Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep these laws.

All You shall not steal.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

All You shall not be a false witness against your neighbour.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

All You shall not covet anything which belongs to your neighbour.
Lord, have mercy upon us,
and incline our hearts to keep these laws.

A period of silent reflection

Confession

All **Almighty God,**
long-suffering and of great goodness:
I confess to you,
I confess with my whole heart
my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments,
my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking;
the hurts I have done to others,
and the good I have left undone.
O God, forgive me,
for I have sinned against you;
and raise me to newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Absolution

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive † you your sins
and make you holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

I Corinthians 1.18-25

Reader A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

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. 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.

All This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:7-14

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the simple.
The statutes of the Lord are right and rejoice the heart
the commandment of the Lord is pure
and gives light to the eyes.
The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever;
the judgements of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.

All **The commandment of the Lord is pure
and gives light to the eyes.**

More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold,
sweeter also than honey,
dripping from the honeycomb.
By them also is your servant taught
and in keeping them there is great reward.

All **The commandment of the Lord is pure
and gives light to the eyes.**

Who can tell how often they offend?
O cleanse me from my secret faults!
Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins
lest they get dominion over me;
so shall I be undefiled,
and innocent of great offence.
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

All **The commandment of the Lord is pure
and gives light to the eyes.**

Holy Gospel

John 2.13-22

Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth,
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

All **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

The Lord our redeemer be with you

All **and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making 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. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After 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.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Homily

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

All **Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Prayers of the Faithful

Scripture assures us that God our Father
hears the prayers of those who come in faith and hope.
In the power of the Spirit and in the name of the Son,
let us present our petitions to him.

After each petition

All **Lord, you speak what is true:
and the truth can set us free.**

At the end

Ever-faithful God,
you hear the prayers of those who turn to you in faith and trust:
hear these our prayers
that our Lenten journey may bring us closer to you
and each other.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.

All

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

As we are able, let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

The Offertory

The altar is prepared

Invitation to Prayer

Pray, my brothers and sisters,
that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

All

**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 Church.**

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, by the grace of this sacrifice
may we who ask forgiveness be ready to forgive one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days
you lead us into the desert of repentance
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline
we may grow in grace
and learn to be your people once again.
Through fasting, prayer and acts of service
you bring us back to your generous heart.
Through study of your holy word
you open our eyes to your presence in the world
and free our hands to welcome others
into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast
with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy
and join with saints and angels
for ever praising you and saying:

All

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way,
after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

All

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

All **Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

The Lord's Prayer

Let us ask our Father to forgive our sins
and bring us to forgive those who sin against us:

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
All **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

Agnus Dei

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

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

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

Invitation to Communion

Let us in our hearts receive the living Lord.
All **May we live in him and he in us.**

Giving of Communion

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.

Spiritual Communion – for those at home

It is an ancient practice of the Church that, when you are prevented from attending the Holy Eucharist, people are invited to express, in the words of St Thomas Aquinas, “an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him.” Therefore, during this time you are invited to pray this prayer, which may be said as often as you desire:

Act of Reception

**All In union, blessed Jesus,
with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church
where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day,**

(and remembering particularly my own parish ...)

**I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving,
for creation and all the blessings of this life,
for the redemption won for us by your life, death,
and resurrection,
for the means of grace and the hope of glory.**

(and particularly for the blessings given me ...)

**I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament,
and, since I cannot at this time receive communion,
I pray you to come into my heart.
I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart,
my soul, and my mind.
Let nothing separate me from you;
let me serve you in this life until, by your grace,
I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace.
Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations
of the world, the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

**God of our pilgrimage,
you have fed with your holy word
and we look forward to the day when we may together
receive you in the sacrament of the eucharist.**

**Refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our Lenten journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Notices for the Community

¶ Sending Out

All The Lord our redeemer be with you
and also with you.

Solemn Blessing

All May God the Father,
 who does not despise the broken spirit,
 give to you a contrite heart.
Amen.

All May Christ,
 who bore our sins in his body on the tree,
 heal you by his wounds.
Amen.

All May the Holy Spirit,
 who leads us into all truth,
 speak to you words of pardon and peace.
Amen.

All And the blessing of God almighty,
 the Father, the Son †, and the Holy Spirit,
 be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Dismissal

All The Mass is ended, go in peace.
Thanks be to God.