



## Third Sunday of Lent

March 3, 2024

Christ Crucified

### As We Gather

We focus our attention on Christ crucified. The apostle Paul tells us that this is a stumbling block and foolishness to some people. Yet Paul also reminds us that for us who are being saved, Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God. We may face people in our lives who view us as foolish. God in His wisdom sent Jesus to die for you.

### Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✝}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

### Opening Sentences

- P** God invites us to gather in His name.
- C** We are gathered to worship and praise.
- P** Our heavenly Father's house is a house of prayer for all the nations.
- C** He gathers people from every corner of the earth to sing His praises.
- P** We listen to God's Word.
- C** We hear the message proclaimed of Christ crucified.

### Confession and Absolution

- P** Though this is a house of prayer, we do not always honor God's house as we should. Still, our heavenly Father is merciful, and He invites us ever into His house to ask for forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection.*

- P** Heavenly Father,
- C** we have sinned against You and against our neighbors. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Disrupt our sinfulness. Forgive us, renew us, and restore us, on account of Jesus. Amen.
- P** Almighty God in His mercy sent Jesus into our world, not only to disrupt our sinfulness but also to forgive us by His death and resurrection. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✝}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen. We are forgiven because of Christ crucified.

### Introit for Lent 3

*Psalm 69:14–16; antiphon: v. 9*

- C** For zeal for Your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.
- P** Deliver me from sinking in the mire;  
let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters.  
Let not the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up,  
or the pit close its mouth over me.  
Answer me, O LORD, for Your steadfast love is good;  
according to Your abundant mercy, turn to me.

**C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**For zeal for Your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.**

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## Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray. O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Holy Gospel

*John 2:13–25*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the second chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, “Take these things away; do not make my Father’s house a house of trade.” His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?” Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore 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.

Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Creed

*Nicene Creed*

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

## Sermon

### Prayer of the Church

- P** On our hearts imprint Your image,  
**C** **blessed Jesus, King of grace.**
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, lead Your church on earth to be a house of prayer for all the nations. Disrupt our petty preferences and cultural bias so that we might welcome people from every nation, language, and background. On our hearts imprint Your image,  
**C** **blessed Jesus, King of grace.**
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, as You delivered the people out of slavery in Egypt and taught them how to live as Your people, so teach us to live according to Your righteous instructions so that we may live peacefully with You and our neighbors. On our hearts imprint Your image,  
**C** **blessed Jesus, King of grace.**
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, You are well acquainted with grief and death. Bring Your comfort to all those who are suffering in grief. Point them to the hope that in Your Father's house are many rooms and that You have gone to prepare a place for us. On our hearts imprint Your image,  
**C** **blessed Jesus, King of grace.**
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, intercede for all those struggling with relationship issues, whether in friendships, family dynamics, marital struggles, or relationships within the church. We pray that You would bring repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation in the midst of such struggle. On our hearts imprint Your image,  
**C** **blessed Jesus, King of grace.**
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, send Your strength to all missionaries. Embolden them to preach the power of Your cross. Encourage them in their service by the same message they proclaim that You have died and are risen for us and our salvation. On our hearts imprint Your image,  
**C** **blessed Jesus, King of grace.**
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially...*]. Have mercy upon them and restore them to health according to Your good and gracious will. On our hearts imprint Your image,  
**C** **blessed Jesus, King of grace.**
- P** Lord Jesus, we commend all of these people and situations into Your hands, for You have promised to hear our prayers and intercede for us, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** **Amen.**

## Offering

### Lord's Prayer

- C** 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  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

## Prayer

**P** Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through your Word and Spirit and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

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