

**The Third Sunday of Lent      Year B**

**Sunday, March 7, 2021**

**Readings:** 1) Exodus 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17    2) 1 Corinthians 1:22-25    3) John 2:13-25

## **Sunday Liturgy**

The focus for today's Mass is: **Eliminate what distracts us from God.**

The first of God's commandments – that he alone is God and we shall not have other gods or idols – reaches beyond simply “not offering sacrifices to pagan deities.” Rather, it includes avoiding anything that we “rank above” God or that prevents us from worshipping him. The importance of this commandment is seen in the way Jesus reacts against those who have made commerce – selling animals and changing money – their gods, their idols.

God gives the Israelites his commandments, saying he will punish those who do not follow them but grant mercy to those who do. Saint Paul writes the Corinthians, *we proclaim Christ crucified*, which is foolishness to those who do not believe, but power and wisdom to those who do. In the Gospel, Jesus drives money-changers and vendors from the temple area, and then tells the crowd that if the temple is destroyed he will raise it in three days.

## **GENERAL INTERCESSIONS**

**PRIEST:**

**We now bring our needs and the needs of the world before our Merciful Father.**

**For all members of the Church, may they exemplify Christian simplicity.**

We Pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

**For the world, may the peace of Christ reign in every corner.**

We Pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

**For all who are sick in mind, spirit and body, may God's presence offer comfort and healing.**

We Pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer.

**For our beloved dead, may they rest in peace.**

We Pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

**For all of us, may the Lord bless us in our Lenten journey.**

We Pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

**For our own personal intentions... (pause).**

We Pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

**PRIEST:**

**Father,**

**we ask that you hear and answer our prayers in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.**

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