

Sunday, March 3, 2024
The Third Sunday of Lent

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

FOCUS: Have zeal for the dwelling place of the Lord.

Jesus has such reverence for the temple, God's dwelling place, that he overturns tables and drives away those who are abusing its true purpose. This place here, where we are gathered and will receive Jesus in the Eucharist, is God's dwelling place as well. Let us allow Jesus to cleanse our hearts and our minds, that he might renew us as his dwelling place, his temple.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God delivers his commandments. Paul explains to the Corinthians that the challenge the Gospel poses to Jews and Gentiles is also the power and wisdom of God to those who receive it. In the Gospel, Jesus drives the money changers out of the temple. When questioned about this, Jesus says he would rebuild the temple in three days if it was destroyed. Later, his disciples understood this to be a prediction of his resurrection.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the Lord's goodness, let us bring before him our prayers for the Church, the world, and ourselves.

- 1) For all the faithful, may the Holy Spirit continue sanctifying and teaching us in the ways of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For world leaders, may God guide them in the ways of peace and prosperity for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are experiencing struggles or adversity, may God strengthen their faith and pour out upon them his consolation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all members of this faith community, may the grace of the Holy Spirit make us courageous witnesses to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died with the hope of the resurrection, may God reward them with eternal joy in his presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Holy and eternal God, hear the prayers we have brought before you and answer them in accordance with your divine providence. Through Jesus Christ, we pray.