

**A morning service during the Covid-19 restrictions
Third Sunday of Lent - March 7, 2021**

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. *Psalms 51.18*

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Most merciful God, we confess that 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 neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: O come let us worship.

We Praise You, O God

We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring,
we lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers;
through trial and tempest companion and guide.
When perils o’ertake us, you will not forsake us,
but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.

With voices united, our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,
To you, our great redeemer for ever be praise! Julia Cory (1822-1963)

**The Proclamation of the Word
Exodus 20: 1-17**

Psalms 19

- 1** The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.
- 2** One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- 3** Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,
- 4** Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.
- 5** In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- 6** It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

- 7** The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8** The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.
- 9** The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; *
the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
- 10** More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
- 11** By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12** Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.
- 13** Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.
- 14** Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

A reflection on the readings (written by the Rt. Rev. Tom Corston)

Affirmation of Faith

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like it:

Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

**When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the cross of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.**

**See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown.**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Prayers (see litany below)

Our prayers have been requested for: Thelma, Joanne, Wendy, Vivian, Spruce, front line workers who continue to serve in the midst of this pandemic, the homeless and those who care for them, our sister congregations in the Deanery of Muskoka and our Archbishop Anne as we walk this difficult road together.

14 Lent

(With confidence and trust let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy.")

**For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church throughout the world, we pray to you, Lord.
Lord, have mercy.**

**For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, Lord.
Lord, have mercy.**

For those preparing for baptism and for their teachers and sponsors, we pray to you, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For peace in the world, that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God, we pray to you, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the day

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Ash Wednesday

Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's prayer

For the Healing of the Nations

For the healing of the nations, God, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us, Father, into freedom; from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice, may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness, bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find.

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A Lenten Blessing

May the God of mercy transform you by his grace, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Dismissal

Then may be said or sung,

Officiant Let us bless the Lord. *People* Thanks be to God!

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