



## **Prayer During the Day for the Third Sunday of Lent**

### **Introduction**

We meet in the name of God.

**All Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Good morning and a very warm welcome to you wherever you may be. Our service for the Third Sunday of Lent comes from the Church of St Michael, Sutton on the Hill.

I am very grateful to Sue Hartley and David Legh for their contributions to this service, and as usual, David is doing the recording.

This week we approach the half-way point of Lent - a time of reflection on what really matters to us. In Holy Week, the final days of Lent, I hope you will join me in recalling the Passion of Christ in the services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day.

Meanwhile, as we wait to see whether the fall in Coronavirus infection will continue to decline and anticipate warmer days ahead we can admit to mixed feelings of hope and nervousness, so we begin with a prayer that addresses some of these feelings:

*Let us pray*

Loving and ever-faithful God,  
as the seasons change, the days lengthen,  
and storms and sunshine alternate,  
help us to face the uncertainties of life and capriciousness of the  
weather, rejoicing in the light of your presence,  
knowing the warmth of your constant love,  
and walking with you through the challenges  
and delights that each day brings.  
Amen.

## Hymn

*Stand*

### **Praise to the Holiest in the height**

*sung by St Martin's Voices*

Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise:  
in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways.

O loving wisdom of our God!  
when all was sin and shame,  
a second Adam to the fight  
and to the rescue came.

O generous love! That he, who smote  
in man for man the foe,  
the double agony in man  
for man should undergo;

And in the garden secretly,  
and on the Cross on high,  
should teach his brethren, and inspire  
to suffer and to die.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise:

in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways.

*John Henry Newman (1801-1890)*

## **The Opening Canticle -The Song of Christ's Glory**

*We remain standing and say together*

Christ Jesus was in the form of God, ♦  
but he did not cling to equality with God.

<sup>2</sup> He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, ♦  
and was born in our human likeness.

<sup>3</sup> Being found in human form he humbled himself, ♦  
and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

<sup>4</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him, ♦  
and bestowed on him the name above every name,

<sup>5</sup> That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, ♦  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth;

<sup>6</sup> And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, ♦  
to the glory of God the Father.

*Philippians 2.5–11*

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

## **Confession**

*Sit*

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross  
so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness;  
by his wounds we have been healed.  
Let us confess our sins.

**All** Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you,  
through our own fault,  
in thought, and word, and deed,  
and in what we have left undone.  
We are heartily sorry,  
and repent of all our sins.  
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.

## **Absolution**

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive *us our* sins,  
and bring *us* to everlasting life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** Amen.

Lord, we are clay  
**All** and you are the potter.  
We are all the work of your hand;  
**All** do not remember our sins for ever.  
Look upon us in your mercy,  
**All** for we are your people.

*Cf Isaiah 64.8,9*

## **Psalm 19.7-14**

*Please stand*

<sup>7</sup> The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;  
the testimony of the Lord is sure  
and gives wisdom to the simple.

<sup>8</sup> The statutes of the Lord are right and rejoice the  
heart;

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

<sup>9</sup> The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever;  
the judgements of the Lord are true  
and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup> **More to be desired are they than gold,  
more than much fine gold, sweeter also than  
honey, dripping from the honeycomb.**

<sup>11</sup> By them also is your servant taught  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup> **Who can tell how often they offend?  
O cleanse me from my secret faults!**

<sup>13</sup> Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins  
lest they get dominion over me;  
so shall I be undefiled, and innocent of great offence.

<sup>14</sup> **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 Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
And to the Holy Spirit:  
As it was in the beginning is now,  
And shall be forever. Amen.**

## **Bible Readings**

*A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians, chapter 1  
beginning at the eighteenth verse.*

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. *1 Corinthians 1.18-25*

This is the word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God**

*A reading from the gospel of John, chapter two beginning at thirteenth verse.*

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.

*John 2.13-22*

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

**Homily**

**Hymn**

*Please stand*

**Jesu, lover of my soul**  
*sung by St Martin's Voices*

Jesu, lover of my soul,  
let me to thy bosom fly,  
while the gath'ring waters roll,  
while the tempest still is high:  
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide,  
till the storm of life is past;  
safe into the haven guide,  
O receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none,  
hangs my helpless soul on thee;  
leave, ah, leave me not alone,  
still support and comfort me.  
All my trust on thee is stayed,  
all my help from thee I bring;  
cover my defenceless head  
with the shadow of thy wing.

Plenteous grace with thee is found,  
grace to cover all my sin;  
let the healing streams abound,  
make and keep me pure within.  
Thou of life the fountain art,  
freely let me take of thee,  
spring thou up within my heart,  
rise to all eternity.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

## **Intercessions**

*Sit or kneel*

With confidence and trust let us pray to the Father.

For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church; for all who call themselves Christians; especially for those persecuted for their faith,

let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,

**All in your mercy hear us.**

For the mission of the Church,  
that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel  
to the ends of the earth,

let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,

**All in your mercy hear us.**

For peace in the world; for the people of Myanmar -  
that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow  
among nations and peoples,

let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,

**All in your mercy hear us.**



For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer  
*especially those who are victims of modern slavery*  
for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger;  
that they may be relieved and protected,  
let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,

**All in your mercy hear us.**

For those whom we have injured or offended,  
let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,

**All in your mercy hear us.**

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God,  
let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,

**All in your mercy hear us.**

In communion with all those who have walked in the way of  
holiness we remember those who have died in recent days,  
let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,

**All in your mercy hear us.**

God our Father,  
in your love and goodness  
you have taught us to come close to you in penitence  
with prayer, fasting and generosity;  
accept our Lenten discipline,  
and when we fall by our weakness,  
raise us up by your unfailing mercy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Collect for the Third Sunday of Lent.**

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.  
**Amen.**

Trusting in the compassion of God  
let us pray to our heavenly Father;  
**Our Father in heaven,**  
**hallowed be your name,**  
**your kingdom come,**  
**your will be done,**  
**on earth as in heaven.**  
**Give us today our daily bread.**  
**Forgive us our sins**  
**as we forgive those who sin against us.**  
**Lead us not into temptation**  
**but deliver us from evil.**  
**For the kingdom, the power,**  
**and the glory are yours**  
**now and for ever.**  
**Amen.**

### **Blessing**

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,  
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;  
and the blessing ... **Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

We go into the world to walk in God's light,  
to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory.

**All Amen.**

### *Recessional Music*

Drop, drop slow tears *Orlando Gibbons*

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