

## Sunday, March 4, 2018 - Third Sunday of Lent

### Reading 1

### Exodus 20:1-17

In those days, God delivered all these commandments:

"I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery.

You shall not have other gods besides me.

You shall not carve idols for yourselves

in the shape of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth;

you shall not bow down before them or worship them.

For I, the LORD, your God, am a jealous God,

inflicting punishment for their fathers' wickedness

on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation;

but bestowing mercy down to the thousandth generation

on the children of those who love me and keep my commandments.

"You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain.

For the LORD will not leave unpunished the one who takes his name in vain.

"Remember to keep holy the sabbath day.

Six days you may labor and do all your work,

but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD, your God.

No work may be done then either by you, or your son or daughter,

or your male or female slave, or your beast,

or by the alien who lives with you.

In six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth,

the sea and all that is in them;

but on the seventh day he rested.

That is why the LORD has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

"Honor your father and your mother,

that you may have a long life in the land

which the LORD, your God, is giving you.

You shall not kill.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass, nor anything else that belongs to him."

**Responsorial Psalm****Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 11.**

R. (John 6:68c) **Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul;  
The decree of the LORD is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple.

The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;  
the command of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eye.

The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever;  
the ordinances of the LORD are true, all of them just.

They are more precious than gold, than a heap of purest gold;  
sweeter also than syrup or honey from the comb.

**Reading 2****1 Corinthians 1:22-25**

Brothers and sisters:

Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified,  
a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike,  
Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.  
For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

**Gospel****John 2:13-25**

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.  
He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there.  
He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen,  
and spilled the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said,  
"Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace."  
His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, Zeal for your house will consume me.  
At this the Jews answered and said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?"  
Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."  
The Jews said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?"  
But he was speaking about the temple of his body.  
Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this,  
and they came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken.

While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing.  
But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all, and did not need anyone to testify about human nature.  
He himself understood it well.

## **Sunday, March 11, 2018 - Fourth Sunday of Lent**

### **Reading 1**

### **2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23**

In those days, all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations and polluting the LORD's temple which he had consecrated in Jerusalem.

Early and often did the LORD, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people and his dwelling place.

But they mocked the messengers of God, despised his warnings, and scoffed at his prophets, until the anger of the LORD against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy.

Their enemies burnt the house of God, tore down the walls of Jerusalem, set all its palaces afire, and destroyed all its precious objects.

Those who escaped the sword were carried captive to Babylon, where they became servants of the king of the Chaldeans and his sons until the kingdom of the Persians came to power.

All this was to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah:

"Until the land has retrieved its lost sabbaths, during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest while seventy years are fulfilled."

In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD inspired King Cyrus of Persia to issue this proclamation throughout his kingdom, both by word of mouth and in writing:

"Thus says Cyrus, king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD, the God of heaven, has given to me, and he has also charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

Whoever, therefore, among you belongs to any part of his people, let him go up, and may his God be with him!"

### **Responsorial Psalm**

### **Psalms 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6.**

**R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!**

By the streams of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.

On the aspens of that land we hung up our harps.

For there our captors asked of us the lyrics of our songs,

And our despoilers urged us to be joyous: "Sing for us the songs of Zion!"

How could we sing a song of the LORD in a foreign land?

If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand be forgotten!

May my tongue cleave to my palate if I remember you not,

If I place not Jerusalem ahead of my joy.

### **Reading 2**

### **Ephesians 2:4-10**

Brothers and sisters:

God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us,

even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ — by grace you have been saved —, raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come

He might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God;

it is not from works, so no one may boast.

For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.

## **Gospel**

## **John 3:14-21**

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,

so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world,

but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil.

For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light,

so that his works might not be exposed.

But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.