

Readings, Collect and Year's Mind
Sunday 20th March, 2022
Lent 3

In our Year's Mind this week, we pray for Ian Astell, Amelia Newey, Ethel Barnes, Frank Thomas, Annie Gilpin, Alan Somner, Alexander Allan, Christina Hart, Beryl Dale, Isa McNeill, Neil Forteach.

We pray too for Tony Wills, Douglas Hamilton and Pam Breeze, who have died recently.

We also give special prayers for Masami, Peter, Joan M., Delia, Nancy, Gonzalo, Jane T., Claire A. & family, Faten and Huda as they settle into their new life in Scotland, Ukraine, its people, and the World, and the families and friends of Tony Wills, Douglas Hamilton, and Pam Breeze.

The Intercessions are being led by Susie Martin

The Collect for Lent 3 is:

O God,
you see that we lack the strength to help ourselves:
protect us both inwardly and outwardly;
that our bodies may be guarded from adversity,
and our minds may be defended
from such thoughts as assault and harm the soul;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end
Amen

The Old Testament Reading is Isaiah 55: 1-9 (Read by Janet Sinton)

The Lord says this:

Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he

is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 63: 1-8

1. O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you,
my flesh faints for you, as in a barren and dry land where there is no water;
2. Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.
3. For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.
4. So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.
5. My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
6. When I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.
7. For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
8. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The New Testament Reading is 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not

common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading is Luke 13: 1-9

Glory to Christ our Saviour

There were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.

Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them – do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations
of the world, the flesh and the devil
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you,
the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The sung Communion Setting is by MacMillan.

The Hymns are from New English Hymnal

76 Take up thy cross, the Saviour said
434 Oft in danger, oft in woe
468 Through the night of doubt and sorrow

The Anthem is *Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts*, by Henry Purcell