



7 MARCH 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

INTRODUCTION:

Jesus asserted his authority as Son of God and cleansed the Temple because it had become a place of business instead of being a house of prayer. Each of us is the temple of God and the Spirit of God lives in us. During the season of Lent, we are challenged to introspect and see what areas of my life need to be cleansed.

INTRODUCTION TO THE READINGS:

After Moses leads the people out of captivity in Egypt, he meets God on Mount Sinai and is given the Ten Commandments. These commandments are not restrictions placed before us but a way that leads to fullness of life. Today's Psalm tells us His words are eternal life and we need to listen to them. God's Presence and saving works are not found in a building of bricks but in the *"risen body of Christ"*. We are called to proclaim *"Christ crucified"* by the lives we live.

READINGS:

First Reading: Ex 20:1-17

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 19:8,9,10,11

Second Reading: 1 Cor 1:22-25

Gospel: Jn 2:13-25



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: Heavenly Father, full of forgiveness and mercy, we desire to deepen our relationship with You during this Lenten season. We bring our prayers before You with faith and confidence asking for a cleansing and healing.

Our response is: God our Father, hear our prayer.

For our Pope Francis, the bishops, the clergy, the religious and all the members of the Church that our acts of worship may be pure and genuine as we strive to deepen our relationship with God and with one another; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

For world leaders and those in authority, that they may be cleansed of greed, corruption and abuse of power and work for the benefit of the people under their care; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

For the members of our community, that during this Lenten season, we may experience anew the passion, death and Resurrection of Christ and its significance in our lives ;**pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

For all of us gathered here and those hearing online Eucharist, that as we come together in this Temple of God, our hearts may be cleansed of all selfish motives and sin and be made a worthy dwelling place for God; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

Celebrant: Almighty God, we place our prayers before You confident that You know our needs even before we know them ourselves. Fill Your church with such holiness that our understanding of Your ways deepens daily and all our work and worship glorifies Your name. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM THE CORONA VIRUS:

Almighty and merciful God, who show Your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the Coronavirus in various parts of the world.

We come before You asking for an efficacious control of the outbreak, for a healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We thank You for blessing the efforts of our research scientists working on the development of a vaccine. We pray that these vaccines will be effective in combating the virus and its mutants, and in controlling the spread of the pandemic. We pray that the vaccine be available for all our people even the poor and those in rural areas.

We pray for doctors, nurses and health workers who are in the frontline of this battle, that they be kept safe and have the strength and courage to continue their heroic efforts.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Commission for Liturgy
Archdiocese of Bombay*