

## THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 4, 2018



### THE LESSON Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup>I am the LORD your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

<sup>3</sup>You must have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup>Do not make an idol for yourself—no form whatsoever—of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. <sup>5</sup>Do not bow down to them or worship them, because I, the LORD your God, am a passionate God. I punish children for their parents' sins even to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me. <sup>6</sup>But I am loyal and gracious to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>Do not use the LORD your God's name as if it were of no significance; the LORD won't forgive anyone who uses his name that way.

<sup>8</sup>Remember the Sabbath day and treat it as holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you may

work and do all your tasks, <sup>10</sup>but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. Do not do any work on it—not you, your sons or daughters, your male or female servants, your animals, or the immigrant who is living with you. <sup>11</sup>Because the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them in six days, but rested on the seventh day. That is why the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother so that your life will be long on the fertile land that the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup>Do not kill.

<sup>14</sup>Do not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup>Do not steal.

<sup>16</sup>Do not testify falsely against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>Do not desire your neighbor's house. Do not desire and try to take your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox, donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.

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### THE RESPONSE Psalm 19

Heaven is declaring God's glory; the sky is proclaiming his handiwork.

**<sup>2</sup>One day gushes the news to the next, and one night informs another what needs to be known.**

<sup>3</sup>Of course, there's no speech, no words—their voices can't be heard—

**<sup>4</sup>but their sound extends throughout the world; their words reach the ends of the earth.**

God has made a tent in heaven for the sun.<sup>5</sup>The sun is like a groom coming out of his honeymoon suite; like a warrior, it thrills at running its course.

**<sup>6</sup>It rises in one end of the sky; its circuit is complete at the other. Nothing escapes its heat.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD's Instruction is perfect, reviving one's very being.

**The LORD's laws are faithful, making naive people wise.**

<sup>8</sup>The LORD's regulations are right, gladdening the heart.

**The LORD's commands are pure, giving light to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup>Honoring the LORD is correct, lasting forever.

**The LORD's judgments are true. All of these are righteous!**

<sup>10</sup>They are more desirable than gold—than tons of pure gold!—

**and they are sweeter than honey—even dripping off the honeycomb!**

<sup>11</sup>No doubt about it: your servant is enlightened by them; there is great reward in keeping them.

**<sup>12</sup>But can anyone know what they've accidentally done wrong? Clear me of any unknown sin**

<sup>13</sup>and save your servant from willful sins. Don't let them rule me.

**Then I'll be completely blameless; I'll be innocent of great wrongdoing.**

**<sup>14</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing to you, LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

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### THE EPISTLE

#### 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup>The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are being destroyed. But it is the power of God for those of us who are being saved. <sup>19</sup>It is written in scripture: *I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will reject the intelligence of the intelligent.* <sup>20</sup>Where are the wise? Where are the legal experts? Where are today's debaters? Hasn't God

made the wisdom of the world foolish? <sup>21</sup>In God's wisdom, he determined that the world wouldn't come to know him through its wisdom. Instead, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of preaching. <sup>22</sup>Jews ask for signs, and Greeks look for wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, which is a scandal to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. <sup>24</sup>But to those who are called—both Jews and Greeks—Christ is God's power

and God's wisdom. <sup>25</sup>This is because the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness

of God is stronger than human strength.

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### THE GOSPEL John 2:13-22

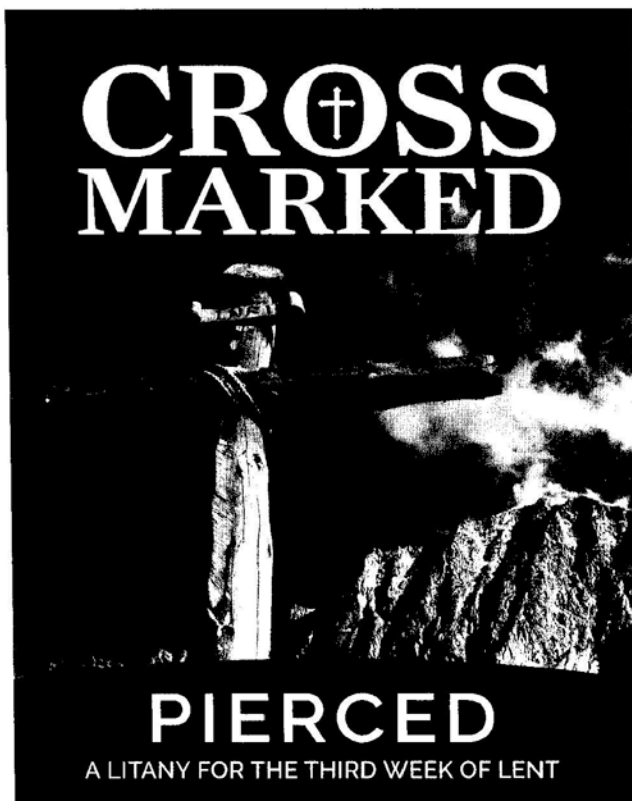
<sup>13</sup>It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>He found in the temple those who were selling cattle, sheep, and doves, as well as those involved in exchanging currency sitting there. <sup>15</sup>He made a whip from ropes and chased them all out of the temple, including the cattle and the sheep. He scattered the coins and overturned the tables of those who exchanged currency. <sup>16</sup>He said to the dove sellers, "Get these things out of here! Don't make my Father's house a place of business." <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it is written,

*Passion for your house consumes me.*

<sup>18</sup>Then the Jewish leaders asked him, "By what authority are you doing these things? What miraculous sign will you show us?"

<sup>19</sup>Jesus answered, "Destroy this temple and in three days I'll raise it up."

<sup>20</sup>The Jewish leaders replied, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and you will raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup>But the temple Jesus was talking about was his body. <sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered what he had said, and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.



**They have pierced my hands and feet.  
Psalm 22:16**

**P** Jesus carried our sins in his body to the cross. His hands and feet were pierced with nails, and his side was pierced by a soldier's spear. Our sins are washed away in the blood that flowed from his wounds.

Tune.....Wem in Leidenstagen 65 65

Glory be to Jesus,  
Who in bitter pains  
Poured for me the lifeblood  
From his sacred veins!

**P** We often turn from God's will and ways to follow our selfish desires.

**C** **Forgive us, Lord, and help us to live in love and service toward others.**

**P** But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities;

**C** **Upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.** (Isaiah 53:5)

**P** They have pierced my hands and feet—I can count all my bones—they stare and gloat over me;

**C** **They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.** (Psalm 22:16-18)

**P** Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.

**C** **And when they came to the place that is called The Skull,**

**P** There they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

**C** **And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."** (Luke 23:32-34)

**P** Lord Jesus, you were pierced and wounded for us. Your blood cleanses us from all sin.

**C** **Help us to forgive others as you have forgiven us.**

Blest through endless ages  
Be the precious stream  
Which from endless torment  
Did the world redeem!

### **Bible Readings for the Third Week of Lent**

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|-----------------|----------------|
| Sunday .....    | Isaiah 53:5-6  |
| Monday .....    | Psalm 22:16-18 |
| Tuesday .....   | Luke 23:32-34  |
| Wednesday ..... | Romans 12:9-13 |
| Thursday .....  | James 5:13-16  |
| Friday .....    | Matthew 6:9-15 |
| Saturday .....  | 1 John 1:7-10  |