

**St. Mark's Presbyterian Church  
Third Sunday in Lent – March 3, 2024**

**Responsive Call to Worship – PWS&D Lenten Liturgy**



## Third Sunday in Lent

*Written by the Rev. John Bannerman (PWS&D Committee Co-Convenor)*

**One:** On this third Sunday of Lent, we see Jesus,  
overturning the tables of the money changers  
as he drove them out of the temple.

**All:** **We are surprised by his actions.**

**One:** Yet there is much in our lives and the world  
that needs to be overturned and driven out.

**All:** **In the name of Jesus, we work to overcome  
oppression, poverty, and injustice in our local  
communities and with partners around the world.**



THE DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

### **Hymn 9 God's law is perfect**

**1. God's law is perfect and converts  
the soul in sin that lies:  
God's testimony is most sure  
and makes the simple wise.**

**2. The statutes of the Lord are right  
and do rejoice the heart:  
the Lord's command is pure, and doth  
light to the eyes impart.**

**3. Unspotted is the fear of God  
and ever doth endure:  
the judgements of the Lord are true  
together, right and sure.**

**4. They more than gold, yea much fine gold,  
to be desired are  
than honey, honey from the comb  
that droppeth, sweeter far.**

**5. Moreover, they thy servants warn  
how they their life should frame:  
a great reward provided is  
for them that keep the same.**

**Prayer of Praise**      *(minister)*

**Hymn 495**      **The heavens declare your glory, Lord**

**1. The heavens declare your glory, Lord!  
In every star your wisdom shines,  
but when our eyes behold your word,  
we read your name in clearer lines.**

**2. Sun, moon and stars convey your praise  
to all the earth, and never stand,  
so when your truth began its race,  
it touched and glanced on every land.**

**3. Nor shall your spreading gospel rest  
till through the world your truth has run,  
till Christ has all the nations blest  
who see the light or feel the sun.**

**4. Great sun of righteousness, arise  
and bless the world with heavenly light!  
Your gospel makes the simple wise;  
your laws are pure, your judgements right.**

**5. Your noblest wonders here we view  
in souls renewed and sins forgiven:**

**Lord, cleanse my sins, my soul renew,  
and make your word my guide to heaven.**

### **Prayer of Confession (congregation)**

**God of majesty and mercy, we are aware that you are  
present here and everywhere, drawing near to us.**

**Yet we confess we are often distracted from your presence.  
Many things compete for our attention. We are tempted to  
seek things that cannot truly satisfy. We envy those who are  
successful in the world's terms, and so pursue our own  
desires, without questioning the cost to the earth or those in  
need. Forgive us, O God.**

**- silent confession -**

### **The Lord's Prayer (Debts/Debtors)**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in  
heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory. For ever  
and ever. Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon (minister)**

### **Hymn 333 I sing the almighty power of God**

**1. I sing the almighty power of God  
that made the mountains rise,  
that spread the flowing seas abroad  
and built the lofty skies.**

**I sing the wisdom that ordained  
the sun to rule the day;  
the moon shines full at Gods command,  
and all the stars obey.**

**2. I sing the goodness of the Lord,  
that filled the earth with food;  
God formed the creatures with a word,  
and then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,**

where'er I turn my eyes,  
if I survey the ground I tread,  
or gaze upon the skies!

**3. There's not a plant or flower below  
but makes thy glories known,  
and clouds arise and tempests blow  
by order from thy throne,  
while all that borrows life from thee  
is ever in thy care,  
and everywhere I could be,  
thou, God, art present there.**

**Responsive Reading      Psalm 19 p. 470 NT & Psalms**

<sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

**<sup>2</sup> Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they reveal knowledge.**

<sup>3</sup> They have no speech, they use no words;  
no sound is heard from them.

**<sup>4</sup> Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world.**

**In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

<sup>5</sup> It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,  
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

**<sup>6</sup> It rises at one end of the heavens  
and makes its circuit to the other;  
nothing is deprived of its warmth.**

<sup>7</sup> The law of the Lord is perfect,  
refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,  
making wise the simple.

**<sup>8</sup> The precepts of the Lord are right,  
giving joy to the heart.**

**The commands of the Lord are radiant,  
giving light to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup> The fear of the Lord is pure,  
enduring forever.

The decrees of the Lord are firm,  
and all of them are righteous.

**<sup>10</sup> They are more precious than gold,**

**than much pure gold;  
they are sweeter than honey,  
than honey from the honeycomb.**

<sup>11</sup> By them your servant is warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup> **But who can discern their own errors?  
Forgive my hidden faults.**

<sup>13</sup> Keep your servant also from willful sins;  
may they not rule over me.

Then I will be blameless,  
innocent of great transgression.

<sup>14</sup> **May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my  
heart  
be pleasing in your sight,  
Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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## **Scripture Lessons**

Exodus 20:1-17            p. 60 pew Bible

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 p. 284 New Testament & Psalms

John 2:13-22            p. 161 New Testament & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

***People: Thanks be to God!***

**Sermon    Laws, wisdom, and stars . . . oh my**

**Prayers of the People    (*minister*)**

**Hymn 208        In the cross of Christ I Glory**

**1. In the cross of Christ I glory,  
towering o'er the wrecks of time;  
all the light of sacred story  
gathers round its head sublime.**

**2. When the woes of life o'ertake me,  
hopes deceive and fears annoy,  
never shall the cross forsake me:  
lo! it glows with peace and joy.**

**3. When the sun of bliss is beaming  
light and love upon my way,  
from the cross the radiance streaming  
adds more lustre to the day.**

4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,  
by the cross are sanctified;  
peace is there that knows no measure,  
joys that through all time abide.

### Offering & Offertory

**\*Doxology      830 Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

### Prayer of Dedication      (congregation)

**Lord Jesus, you challenge your followers to offer God  
commitment and gratitude. Receive our gifts as an  
expression of our commitment to you and your ministry. Use  
all that we can give to offer hope and healing in the world  
you love. Amen.**

### Hymn 238      Beneath the cross of Jesus

**1. Beneath the cross of Jesus  
I fain would take my stand,  
the shadow of a mighty rock  
within a weary land,  
a home with in the wilderness,  
a rest upon the way,  
from the burning of the noontide heat  
and the burden of the day.**

**2. Upon the cross of Jesus  
mine eyes at times can see  
the very dying form of one  
who suffered there for me,  
and from my stricken heart with tears  
two wonders I confess:  
the wonders of redeeming love  
and my own unworthiness.**

**3. I take, O cross, thy shadow  
for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than**

**the sunshine of his face;  
content to let the world go by,  
to know no gain nor loss;  
my sinful self my only shame,  
my glory all, the cross.**

### **Choral Blessing**

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.  
God will be with you each hour of every day.  
God will be there, watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

### **Benediction**