

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT  
with  
BLESSING OF THE CHURCH

St. Peter's Church  
Saturday 3 March 2018  
at 6:30pm

ENTRANCE SONG

BLESSING AND SPRINKLING OF WATER

*After the greeting, the Celebrant blesses water with which to sprinkle the people as a sign of repentance and a reminder of their baptism, and to purify the walls of the new church. The ministers bring the vessel with the water to the Celebrant who stands at the chair. The Celebrant invites all to pray:*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we come together to offer this new church to God.

We ask that he bless us with his grace and, by his power, bless this gift of water.

As it is sprinkled upon us and throughout this new church, may it become a sign of our repentance, a reminder of our baptism, and a symbol of the cleansing of these walls.

But first let us call to mind that we ourselves, who are bound here in faith and love, are the living Church, set in the world, as a sign and witness of God's love for all.

*All pray in silence for a brief period. The Celebrant then continues:*

God of mercy,  
you call every creature to the light of life,  
and surround us with such great love  
that when we stray  
you continually lead us back to Christ our head.  
For you have established an inheritance of such mercy,  
that those sinners, who pass through water made sacred,  
die with Christ and rise restored  
as members of his body  
and heirs of his eternal covenant.

Bless ✠ this water;  
sanctify it.

As it is sprinkled upon us and throughout this church  
make it a sign of the saving waters of baptism,  
by which we become one in Christ, the temple of your Spirit.  
May all here today  
and all those in days to come,  
who will celebrate your mysteries in this church,  
be united at last in the holy city of your peace.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.  
R. Amen.

*Then the Celebrant passes through the main body of the church, sprinkling the people and the walls, the crucifix, tabernacle, statutes, and so on, with the holy water; then, when he has returned to the sanctuary, he sprinkles the altar.*

*After the sprinkling the Celebrant returns to the chair and, when the singing is finished, standing with hands joined, says:*

May God, the Father of mercies,  
dwell in this house of prayer.  
May the grace of the Holy Spirit cleanse us,  
For we are the temple of his presence.  
R. Amen.

## COLLECT

Let us pray (*pause*)

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

(Short Form)

FIRST READING (*The law was given through Moses.*)

A reading from the Book of Exodus (20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17)

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 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. 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.”

—The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(19:8, 9, 10, 11)

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

The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul; the decree of the Lord is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple. (*R*)

The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the command of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eye. (*R*)

The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true, all of them just. (*R*)

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

**SECOND READING** (*We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to many, but to those who are called, the wisdom of God.*)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians (1:22-25)

Brothers and sister: 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. —The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (*Jn 3:16*)

R. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life. (*R*)

GOSPEL (*Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to 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.

—The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

*The Creed is said.*

*General Intercessions*

## BLESSING OF THE ALTAR

*Then the Celebrant goes to bless the altar.*

*At the altar, the Celebrant, standing, speaks to the people:*

Brothers and sisters, our community rejoices as it comes together to bless this altar. Let us ask God to look kindly on the Church's offering placed upon it and to receive his people as an everlasting gift.

*All pray in silence for a brief period. Then the Celebrant, with hands extended, says:*

Blessed are you, Lord our God,  
who accepted the sacrifice of Christ,  
offered on the altar of the cross  
for the salvation of the world.

Now with a Father's love,  
you call upon your people to celebrate his memory  
by coming together at his table.

May this altar,  
which we have built for your holy mysteries,  
be the center of our praise and thanksgiving.

May it be the table  
at which we break the bread which gives us life  
and drink the cup which makes us one.

May it be the fountain  
of the unfailing waters of salvation.

Here may we draw close to Christ,  
the living stone,  
and, in him, grow into a holy temple.

Here may our lives of holiness  
become a pleasing sacrifice to your glory.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*Ministers cover the altar with a cloth. They arrange in a suitable manner the candles needed for the celebration of Mass.*

*When the altar is ready, some of the congregation bring bread, wine, and water for the celebration of the Lord's sacrifice.*

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings,  
and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins,  
may take care to forgive our neighbor.

Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

### PREFACE II OF LENT (*Spiritual penance*)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you have given your children a sacred time  
for the renewing and purifying of their hearts,  
that, freed from disordered affections,  
they may so deal with the things of this passing world  
as to hold rather to the things that eternally endure.

And so, with all the Angels and Saints,  
we praise you, as without end we acclaim:

### COMMUNION SONG

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray (*pause*)

As we receive the pledge  
of things yet hidden in heaven  
and are nourished while still on earth  
with the Bread that comes from on high,  
we humbly entreat you, O Lord,  
that what is being brought about in us in mystery  
may come to true completion.  
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

## PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Bow down for the blessing.

*(The Celebrant, with hands extended over the people, says the blessing.)*

Direct, O Lord, we pray, the hearts of your faithful,  
and in your kindness grant your servants this grace:  
that, abiding in the love of you and their neighbor,  
they may fulfill the whole of your commands.  
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,  
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

R. Amen.

*Cum Approbatione Ecclesiastica*