

Church of the Messiah

Third Sunday in Lent
7 March 2021



Prelude *Caswall* RICHARD LLOYD

A Penitential Order

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

***People* His mercy endures forever.**

In this Season of Lent, this season of almsgiving, fasting, and charity,
may the peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Hear the commandments of God to his people:
I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.
You shall have no other gods but me.

***People* Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not make for yourself any idol.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

Honor your father and your mother.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit murder.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not steal.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not be a false witness.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day *Third Sunday in Lent*

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson *Exodus 20:1-17*

After the Lesson, the Reader says: 'The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19

Reader 'The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.
One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,
Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.

People **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight, ***
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Reader In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.
The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.

People **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight, ***
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Reader 'The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever; *
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.
Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.
Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

People **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight, ***
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Epistle *1 Corinthians 1:18-25*

After the Lesson, the Reader says: The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn #148 *Creator of the Earth and Skies*

- 1 Creator of the earth and skies, to whom the words of life belong,
 grant us your truth to make us wise; grant us your power to make us strong.
- 2 We have no known you: to the skies our monuments of folly soar,
 and all our self-wrought miseries have made us trust ourselves the more.
- 3 We have not loved you: far and wide the wreckage of our hatred spreads,
 and evils wrought by human pride recoil on unrepentant heads.
- 4 For this, our foolish confidence, our pride of knowledge and our sin,
 we come to you in penitence; in us the work of grace begin.

The Gospel opens: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Holy Gospel *John 2:13-22*

The Gospel closes: The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gradual Hymn #148 *Creator of the Earth and Skies*

- 5 Teach us to know and love you, Lord, and humbly follow in your way.
 Speak to our souls the quickening word, and turn our darkness into day.

The Sermon *The Rev. Keith A. Marsh, Rector*

The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth;
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the Virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins**

**the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The congregational response to each petition: O Lord, let our cry come to you.

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, let us boldly pray:

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Seasonal Prayer Over the People

Bow down before the Lord.

Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God, that by your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn #637 *How Firm A Foundation*

1 How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
to you that for refuge to Jesus have fled?

2 "Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed!
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

3 "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

4 "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;

the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

5 "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell shall endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

THIS WEEK'S LESSONS:

Exodus 20:1-17

God spoke all these words: ² I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³ you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴ You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷ You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸ Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹ For six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰ But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. ¹² Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. ¹³ You shall not murder. ¹⁴ You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵ You shall not steal. ¹⁶ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷ You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵ Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' ¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three

days I will raise it up.’²⁰ The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?”²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

THIS WEEK’S GIFT TO THE FLOWER FUND IS DEDICATED

- to the glory of God

BIRTHDAYS IN THE WEEK AHEAD

* Barbara Osborne * Thea Kriebel * Tammy Hoffman * Trey Evangelisto *

* Suzanne Shank * Linda Clement * Cameron Ruff *

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES

CHURCH SCHOOL LESSONS & YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- 10:30am today - “*Virtual*” Church School lesson and activities
- 5:00pm today - “*Virtual*” YOM meeting

A VERY SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER: Dave Reichley reports: I am happy to share the news that our Shrove Sunday Take Out Fundraiser last Sunday raised \$630!! So amazing!! That is the most we have ever raised through a Shrove Sunday event!! Thank you to everyone who participated, either by ordering pancakes, or making donations.

As we are organizing the funds to send to the Tree for Hope Girls School, I wanted to reach out and ask if any of you would like to offer a little note or card to send along with the money. Notes can be addressed to "Students at the Tree for Hope Girls School," and can be kind and encouraging messages, such as "We are so happy that our church was able to help support your wonderful school!" If you would like to take part and include a note, please let me know so that we can wait until we have everyone's message accounted for before sending.

A SIGN OF PROGRESS!

DINE AND DONATE FUNDRAISER RETURNS!!!!

Tuesday, March 16 (*St. Patrick’s Day Eve*)

5 p.m. – 9 p.m.

THE POUR HOUSE

29 Airport Square, North Wales

267-645-4000

No flyer necessary!

If dining in: simply notify your server that you are there for Church of the Messiah. 15% of your total order (excluding tax and gratuity) will be donated to Messiah (includes alcoholic beverages!).

If you are ordering take-out: please mention Church of the Messiah *when you pick up your order*. They cannot give credit to Messiah at the time the order is placed – only when it is picked up. 15% of your total order (excluding tax and gratuity) will be donated to Messiah.

YOGA FOR HEALTH & OUTREACH: Diana Mulroy continues offering yoga classes, an excellent way to maintain flexibility and balance, relieve stress . . . and minister to those in need within our community. The cost for each session is only \$10.00 and all proceeds raised support various local agencies that provide social services to those in need. Classes are held virtually and meet most Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30pm. Dates for March: 3/1, 3/3, 3/8, 3/10, 3/15, 3/17, 3/24, and 3/29. If interested in participating, please contact Diana at dimulroy@yahoo.com, or 267-481-6091.

SPRING FORWARD . . . DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME arrives at 2:00am next Sunday, 14 March!!! Remember to set your clock forward one hour!

FORWARD DAY BY DAY HAS FINALLY ARRIVED: Many of you have been asking about this popular daily devotional, wondering where the copies covering the months of February through April might be. Well, they were apparently held up in the mail! But they have finally arrived! Copies – which are free! – are available to be picked up in the church office. Or, if you are unable to make it into the office, give us a call and we will gladly put a copy in the mail – which you will hopefully receive before the end of April!!! (*Oops! Did we say that?* 😊)

WEEKLY PARISH EMAIL MESSAGES & NOTIFICATIONS: Each week, the Rector sends an email to all parishioners with important notifications and information about parish events and other happenings. If you are not currently receiving these messages, please contact the Church Office (215-699-9204; office@messiahgwynedd.org) so we can add you to the database.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE INTERNET ACCESS: Please contact the Church Office (215-699-9204; office@messiahgwynedd.org) so we can add you to the mailing list of those parishioners who receive hard copies of the messages and sermon by mail.

IN CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS: Should you have an urgent need to contact the Rector outside of Church Office hours, please use his cell phone: 215-692-2667.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH: March 8-14

Monday	Church Office Hours: 9:00am-1:00pm
Tuesday	Church Office Hours: 9:00am-1:00pm AA, Alanon, Alateen – 7:30pm
Wednesday	Church Office Hours: 9:00am-1:00pm 7:00-8:30pm – Rector's Lenten Bible Study via <i>Zoom</i>
Thursday	Church Office Hours: 9:00am-1:00pm
Friday	Church Office CLOSED
Saturday	Church Office CLOSED
Next Sunday	Fourth Sunday in Lent 10:30am today - “ <i>Virtual</i> ” Church School lesson and activities

CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH STAFF

The Rev. Keith A. Marsh, Rector

Sarah Patram, Bookkeeper

Hannah Albrecht, Organist & Choir Director

Tiffany Reichley, Family Ministries – Children

David Reichley, Family Ministries – Youth

Mike Linn, Sexton

CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH VESTRY

David Prezuhy, Sr. Warden

Barbara Stevenson, Jr. Warden

Sam Frenkel, Treasurer

Tina Madison, Clerk

Class of 2021: Vicky Fogel, Susan Miller, Charles Sudlow

Class of 2022: Cheryl Berry, Megan Myers, Michael Stinson, Paul Vollmar

Class of 2023: Tim Beaver, Jennifer Marsh, Jon Marshall, Mercer Sisson

CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

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