

## **Third Sunday in Lent**

### **The Sunday Collect:**

Heavenly Father, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you: Look with compassion upon the heartfelt desires of your servants, and purify our disordered affections, that we may behold your eternal glory in the face of Christ Jesus; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## **First Lesson: Exodus 20:1-21**

And God spoke all these words, saying,

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. “You shall have no other gods before me.

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

“You shall not murder.

“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, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.”

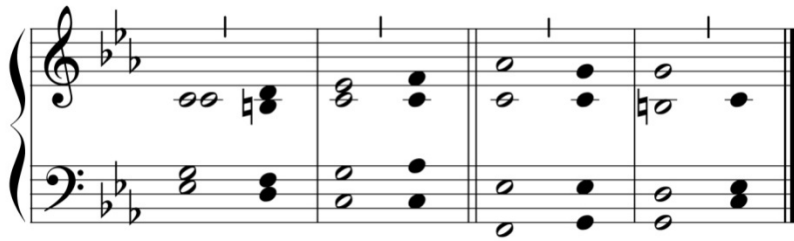
Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.” Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.” The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

*Reader:*               The Word of the Lord.

*People:*               Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 19:7-14 (The Lord's Word is Good)

Robert Knox Kennedy (b. 1945)



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- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the / soul; |  
the testimony of the Lord is sure, and gives wisdom to the / simple. ||
- 8 The statutes of the Lord are right, and rejoice the / heart; |  
the commandment of the Lord is pure, and gives light to the / eyes. ††
- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean, and endures for / ever; |  
the judgments of the Lord are true, and righteous all to / gether. ||
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine / gold; |  
sweeter also than honey, than the drippings from the honey / comb. ††
- 11 Moreover, by them is your servant / taught, |  
and in keeping them there is great re / ward. ||
- 12 Who can tell how often he of / fends? |  
O cleanse me from my secret / faults. ††
- 13 Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins, lest they get the dominion over / me; |  
so shall I be undefiled, and innocent of great of / fense. ||
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be always acceptable in your /  
sight, |  
O Lord, my rock and my re / deemer. ††

Glory be to the Father, and to the / Son |  
And to the Holy / Spirit ||  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever / shall be, |  
World without end, A / men. ††

## Second Lesson: Romans 7:12-25

So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure. For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin.

For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

*Reader:*           The Word of the Lord.

*People:*           **Thanks be to God.**

*Deacon:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People:* **Glory to You, Lord Christ.**

### **The Gospel: John 2:13-22**

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen.

And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?"

But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore 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.

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ**