

## READINGS

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

## OPENING PRAYER

Holy God,  
the folly of the cross  
exposes as shallow the wisdom of the world;  
the weakness of the Crucified One  
puts worldly power to shame.  
Banish from our hearts  
every pretense of wisdom and might,  
that receiving the wisdom of your word,  
and the power of your saving love,  
we may become living temples of your glory;  
through Christ our Saviour,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of wisdom and of power,  
may we who share this sacrament  
strive for righteousness in our lives  
and justice in our world;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Amen.**

FIRST READING: Exodus 20:1-17

*A Reading from the Book of Exodus.*

Moses went down from the mountain and spoke these words of God to the people:

I am 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 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.

You shall not bow down to them or worship them;  
for I am a jealous God,  
    punishing children for the iniquity of their parents  
        to the third and the fourth generation  
        of those who reject me,  
    but showing steadfast love  
        to the thousandth generation  
        of those who love me  
        and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of your God;  
    those who misuse God's name will not be acquitted.

Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.  
Six days you shall labour and do all your work,  
    but the seventh day is a Sabbath to your God;  
thus you shall do no work  
    —you, your son or your daughter,  
    your male or female slave,

your livestock,  
or the foreigner who resides in your towns.  
For in six days God made heaven and earth, the sea,  
and all that is in them,  
but rested on the seventh day;  
therefore God blessed the Sabbath day  
and consecrated it.

Honour your father and your mother,  
so that your days may be long in the land  
that 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 neighbour.

You shall not covet your neighbour's house;  
you shall not covet your neighbour's wife,  
or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey,  
or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

*Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.*

***Thanks be to God.***

## PSALM 19

The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the firmament reveals God's handiwork.

**One day tells its tale to another,  
and one night imparts its 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.**

In the deep has God 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.**

God's law is perfect and revives the soul;  
God's testimony is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

**God's statutes are just and rejoice the heart;  
God's commandment is clear  
and gives light to the eyes.**

The fear of God is clean and endures for ever;  
the judgements of God 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.

**For who can tell how often one 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.

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

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

*A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.*

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.

For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." 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?

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.

For some demand signs, and others desire wisdom; but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to the former and foolishness to the latter. But to those who are being called, both one and the other, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

*Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.*

***Thanks be to God.***

GOSPEL READING: John 2:13-22

*The Lord be with you.*

***And with thy spirit.***

*The Holy Gospel*

*of our Lord Jesus Christ*

*according to John.*

***Glory be to Thee, O Lord.***

*God be with you.*

***And also with you.***

*The Good News*

*of Jesus Christ*

*according to John.*

***Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

The Passover was near, so Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. 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. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take all these things out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

The people then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." They then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After 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.

*The Gospel of Christ.*

***Praise be to Thee, O Christ.***

*The Gospel of Christ.*

***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***