

## Third Sunday in Lent

03 March 2024

### Collect

Lord our God,  
by your Holy Spirit  
write your commandments upon our hearts  
and grant us the wisdom and power of the cross,  
so that, cleansed from greed and selfishness,  
we may become a living temple of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### 1st Reading

#### Genesis 50: 15-21

**15** When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?"

**16** So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died:

**17** 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

**18** His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

**19** But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God?"

**20** You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

**21** So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

### Psalm

#### Psalm 19

<sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of God:

- and the firmament proclaims his handiwork;  
2 One day tells it to another:  
and night to night communicates knowledge.  
3 There is no speech or language:  
nor are their voices heard;  
4 Yet their sound has gone out through all the world:  
and their words to the ends of the earth.  
5 There he has pitched a tent for the sun:  
which comes out as a bridegroom from his chamber,  
and rejoices like a strong man to run his course.  
6 Its rising is at one end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to their farthest bound:  
and nothing is hidden from its heat.  
7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul:  
the command of the Lord is true,  
and makes wise the simple.  
8 The precepts 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 judgements of the Lord are unchanging,  
and righteous every one.  
10 More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold:  
sweeter also than honey,  
than the honey that drips from the comb.  
11 Moreover, by them is your servant taught:  
and in keeping them there is great reward.  
12 Who can know their own unwitting sins?:  
O cleanse me from my secret faults.  
13 Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins,  
lest they get the mastery over me:  
so I shall be clean, and innocent of great offence.  
14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation  
of my heart be acceptable in your sight:  
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

## 2nd Reading

### 1 Peter 3:8-18

**8** Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.

**9** Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

**10** For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech.

**11** They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it.

**12** For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

**13** Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?

**14** But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats ; do not be frightened."

**15** But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

**16** keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

**17** For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

**18** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

## Gospel

### Matthew 5:38-48

**38** "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.'

**39** But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.

**40** And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well.

**41** If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles.

**42** Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

**43** “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’

**44** But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

**45** that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

**46** If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?

**47** And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?

**48** Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.