

MARCH 3, 2024
THIRD SUNDAY
IN LENT



Worship the Lord wherever you are.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 2:13-22	Jesus cleanses the temple
Monday	Exodus 20:1-17	The Ten Commandments
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	Christ crucified
Wednesday	Proverbs 24:3-4	Seek wisdom
Thursday	Joshua 24:14-18	The tribes renew the covenant
Friday	2 Samuel 7:18-29	David's prayer
Saturday	Psalms 19	God is creator and gives the law
Sunday	John 3:14-21	God so loved the world

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" But he [Jesus] was speaking of the temple of his body. John 2:20-21 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Creator God, help us to give you our worship and praise wherever we are for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord who came that we may be set free. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with the sun, moon, and stars, we give you thanks for your creative work, including this gift of food. Amen. (Psalm 19:1)

A Blessing to Give:

May you worship the risen Lord with gladness.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

All Are Welcome



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Where do you like to worship God?
- Jesus said that his body is the real temple. What does that mean for how and where we worship?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 2:1-22.

Jesus goes from turning water into an abundance of wine at a wedding to arriving in Jerusalem and announcing his uncompromising judgment in the temple. Both images of Jesus are critical to the Gospel of John. Jesus opposes the buying and selling happening in the temple at the expense of honoring "my Father's house" (v. 16). The "sign" or authority he gives for his forceful actions is that his body is the real temple. Jesus, as the word made flesh (John 1:14), embodies the very presence of God and, therefore, Jesus becomes the centerpiece for our worship. To the Samaritan woman Jesus says, "you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem" (John 4:21). During the COVID pandemic Christians could not gather in person. We began to realize we need not worship only in a sanctuary. The phrase used was "the church has left the building," noting that we can still worship God outside of sanctuaries. The same message is in John, and it is not new. We can worship wherever we are. *Discuss:* Besides a church building, where have you worshiped Jesus?

Pray: **God of heaven and earth, help us to see that your glory is everywhere, and wherever we are is an acceptable place to worship you through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, in addition to a sanctuary, where can you join with others to worship God?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The cross is an ancient symbol of the Christian faith. It reminds us Jesus died that we may live with God forever and is a reminder of a way of life for Jesus' followers. Light three candles of the seven votive candles shaped like a cross being used for Lent. Sit in silence for a moment while looking at the cross.

Then pray: **Lord, let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you. You are my Rock and my Redeemer. Amen.** (Psalm 19:14)



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org