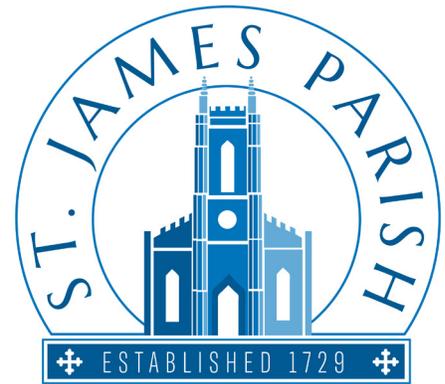


# WINTER WORSHIP

SUNDAY 7 MARCH 2021

## THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT



**Gathering Music** (*Sung by the music team; the congregation is invited to listen*)

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord my soul, who leads me into life.

### Opening

Forty days alone,  
a wilderness of thoughts,  
tempting and inviting thoughts,  
which could so easily have distracted you  
from your task, your mission,  
your vision.  
Yet you emerged, stronger and more attuned  
to all that had to be done,  
despite a time constraint  
that to our eyes would have seemed hopeless.  
We too live in stressful times.  
Demands are made of our time,  
that leave so little  
for the important things of life.  
We are easily distracted  
in the wilderness of our lives,  
by every call to go this way or that,  
to turn stone to bread  
leap from mountains,  
and do all that would keep us from the truth.  
We listen to the voices of this world,  
and ignore the one who endured all this  
and so much more,  
and emerged triumphant,  
that we might not have to suffer so.  
Forgive us, Father,  
when we get distracted from our task.  
Forgive us those times when we try  
to be all things to all people,  
and lose sight of what you've truly called us to do.

## The Confession

*All*     **Forgive those things we have done  
which have caused you sadness,  
and those things we should have done  
that would have brought you joy.  
In both we have failed  
ourselves and you.  
Bring us back to that place  
where our journey began,  
when we said that we would follow  
the way that you first trod.  
Lead us to the Cross  
and meet us there.**

Heavenly Father, you sent your Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. Send your saving power upon all of us who turn to you and seek new life in your name. **Amen.**

**Song of Prayer:** (*Sung by the music team; the congregation is invited to listen*)

Holy God  
Holy and mighty  
Holy immortal one  
Have mercy upon us.

## A Prayer for the Evening

You chose a people for your own,  
to lavish love upon,  
raised up prophets, priests, and kings,  
to be the nation through which  
the Messiah would be revealed to the world,  
and through whom your kingdom would come.  
You chose this people gathered here  
to be your children,  
loved and blessed, forgiven  
through the one who knew no sin,  
the King of Glory, whose crown was made of thorns,  
and whose name we raise in worship. **Amen.**

## The Word of God

### Exodus 20:1–17

Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You must have no other gods before me. Do not make an idol for yourself—no form whatsoever—of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. Do not bow down to them or worship them, because I, the Lord your God, am a passionate God. I punish children for their parents' sins even to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me. But I am loyal and gracious to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. Do not use the Lord your God's name as if it were of no significance; the Lord won't forgive anyone who uses his name that way. Remember the Sabbath day and treat it as holy. Six days you may work and do all your tasks, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. Do not do any work on it—not you, your sons or daughters, your male or female servants,

your animals, or the immigrant who is living with you. Because the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them in six days, but rested on the seventh day. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. Honor your father and your mother so that your life will be long on the fertile land that the Lord your God is giving you. Do not kill. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not testify falsely against your neighbor. Do not desire and try to take your neighbor's house. Do not desire and try to take your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox, donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 19

Heaven is declaring God's glory;  
the sky is proclaiming his handiwork.  
One day gushes the news to the next,  
and one night informs another what needs to be known.  
Of course, there's no speech, no words—  
their voices can't be heard—  
but their sound extends throughout the world;  
their words reach the ends of the earth.  
God has made a tent in heaven for the sun.  
The sun is like a groom  
coming out of his honeymoon suite;  
like a warrior, it thrills at running its course.  
It rises in one end of the sky;  
its circuit is complete at the other.  
Nothing escapes its heat.  
The Lord's Instruction is perfect,  
reviving one's very being.  
The Lord's laws are faithful,  
making naive people wise.  
The Lord's regulations are right,  
gladdening the heart.  
The Lord's commands are pure,  
giving light to the eyes.

Honoring the Lord is correct,  
lasting forever.  
The Lord's judgments are true.  
All of these are righteous!  
They are more desirable than gold—  
than tons of pure gold!  
They are sweeter than honey—  
even dripping off the honeycomb!  
No doubt about it:  
your servant is enlightened by them;  
there is great reward in keeping them.  
But can anyone know  
what they've accidentally done wrong?  
Clear me of any unknown sin  
and save your servant from willful sins.  
Don't let them rule me.  
Then I'll be completely blameless;  
I'll be innocent of great wrongdoing.  
Let the words of my mouth  
and the meditations of my heart  
be pleasing to you,  
Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

### 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are being destroyed. But it is the power of God for those of us who are being saved. It is written in scripture: I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will reject the intelligence of the intelligent. Where are the wise? Where are the legal experts? Where are today's debaters? Hasn't God made the wisdom of the world foolish? In God's wisdom, he determined that the world wouldn't come to know him through its wisdom. Instead, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of preaching. Jews ask for signs, and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, which is a scandal to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. But to those who are called—both Jews and Greeks—Christ is God's power and God's wisdom. This is because the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn:** (*Sung by the music team; the congregation is invited to listen*)

Praise the Lord! ye heavens adore him; praise him angels in the height;  
sun and moon, rejoice before him; praise him, all ye stars of light.

Praise the Lord! for he hath spoken; worlds his mighty voice obeyed;  
laws which never shall be broken for their guidance he hath made.

Praise the Lord! for he is glorious never shall his promise fail;  
God hath made his saints victorious; sin and death shall not prevail.

Praise the God of our salvation! Hosts on high, his power proclaim;  
heaven and earth, and all creation, laud and magnify his Name.

### **The Holy Gospel:**

*Priest*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. (2:13-22)

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

It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple those who were selling cattle, sheep, and doves, as well as those involved in exchanging currency sitting there. He made a whip from ropes and chased them all out of the temple, including the cattle and the sheep. He scattered the coins and overturned the tables of those who exchanged currency. He said to the dove sellers, "Get these things out of here! Don't make my Father's house a place of business." His disciples remembered that it is written, Passion for your house consumes me. Then the Jewish leaders asked him, "By what authority are you doing these things? What miraculous sign will you show us?" Jesus answered, "Destroy this temple and in three days I'll raise it up." The Jewish leaders replied, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and you will raise it up in three days?" But the temple Jesus was talking about was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered what he had said, and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

*Priest*            The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **Message**

The Reverend Michael Singer

### **Affirmation of Faith**

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.  
You create our world and give us life.  
Your purpose overarches everything we do.  
You have always been with us.  
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,  
good beyond all measure.  
You came to us before we came to you.  
You have revealed and proved  
your love for us in Jesus Christ,  
who lived and died and rose again.  
You are with us now.  
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.  
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.  
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.  
You are our God. We worship you.**

## Prayers of the People

*Leader* Lord Jesus Christ,

*People* **Be with us, within us, behind us and before us.**

*Leader* We bind ourselves, O God, today, to the strong name of the Trinity,

*People* **And we name you: Three in One, One in Three; and claim our place in your community of love.**

*Leader* We are embraced, loving God, in the community that is the heart not just of our church, but also in the community that is the very heart of who you are,

*People* **Three in One; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

*Leader* Within that great love, we are held and treasured. Lord, hear our prayers this evening;

*People* **We pray for our hurting world.**

*Leader* That war-makers will find peace. That the hungry will find food. That refugees will find shelter. That injustice will be answered with all that is right and good.

*People* **We pray for all who suffer.**

*Leader* For those we love dearly. For those we barely know. For those whose suffering, we have ignored. Be present in the healing touch of all hands that help the sick and suffering. And send your Spirit to comfort and protect all who need you.

*People* **We pray for all who struggle.**

*Leader* For those who cannot see a way through broken relationships, difficult financial realities, emotional darkness, and deep, deep loneliness. May we find you even in the most helpless places. And may we, your people, be present also in those places, bringing Good News and hope to all who are longing for the true life that only you can provide.

*People* **We pray for all who are joyful.**

*Leader* We rejoice at the promise of new life, and the goodness of each new day. We celebrate the movement through milestones: births, graduations, new jobs, new relationships; and the hopes that they bring. We remember those moments of blessing in our own lives and we thank you for the opportunity to use our lives to your glory, to live lives that are full and worthy of your calling.

We lift up to you, Lord, the prayers that you've placed on our hearts in our own words at this time...

*We will intentionally PAUSE for the community present to share their requests, thanksgivings, desires, hopes & joys either out loud or silently.*

We bind ourselves, O God, today, to the strong name of the Trinity.

*People* **And we name you: Three in One, One in Three: and claim our place in your community of love.**

*Leader* Lord Jesus Christ

*People* **Be with us, within us, behind us, before us. Amen.**

## The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Music at the Offertory:

*(Sung by the music team; the congregation is invited to listen)*

I will bow and be simple, I will bow and be free,  
I will bow and be humble, yea, bow like the willow tree.  
I will bow, this is the token, I will wear the easy yoke,  
I will bow and be broken, yea, I'll fall upon the rock.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All thanks and praise  
are yours at all times and in all places,  
our true and loving God;  
through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word,  
the Wisdom from on high by whom you  
created all things.  
You laid the foundations of the world  
and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb;  
You brought forth all creatures of the earth  
and gave breath to humankind.  
Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing,  
all you create is a sign of hope for our journey;  
And so as the morning stars sing your praises  
we join the heavenly beings and all creation  
as we shout with joy:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth  
are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one  
who comes in the  
name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all,  
your Word has never been silent;  
you called a people to yourself,  
as a light to the nations,  
you delivered them from bondage  
and led them to a land of promise.  
Of your grace, you gave Jesus  
to be human, to share our life,  
to proclaim the coming of your holy reign  
and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,  
you have freed us from sin,  
brought us into your life,  
reconciled us to you,  
and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he  
died for us Jesus took bread,  
and when he had given thanks to you,  
he broke it, gave it to his friends and said:  
"Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me."  
After supper Jesus took the cup of wine,  
said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:  
"Drink this, all of you:  
this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood,  
poured out for you and for all  
for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me."  
And so, remembering all that was done for us:  
the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension,  
longing for Christ's coming in glory,  
and presenting to you these gifts  
your earth has formed and human  
hands have made,  
we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Dying, you destroyed our death.  
Rising, you restored our life.  
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these gifts of bread and wine  
that they may be to us  
the Body and Blood of your Christ.  
Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power,  
may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ,  
and in the fullness of time gather us  
with all your people  
into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
we worship you our God and Creator  
in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and for ever. **AMEN.**

**Lord's Prayer** (*Celebrant and People*)

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We break this bread  
to share in the Body of Christ.  
**We who are many are one body,  
for we all share in the one bread.**

**Music during Eucharist:** (*Sung by the music team; the congregation is invited to listen*)

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.*

Kneels at the feet of his friends,  
silently washes their feet,  
Master who acts as a slave to them. *Refrain*

Neighbors are rich and poor,  
neighbors are black and white,  
neighbors are nearby and far away. *Refrain*

These are the ones we should serve,  
these are the ones we should love,  
all these are neighbors to us and you. *Refrain*

Loving puts us on our knees,  
silently washing their feet,  
this is the way we should live with you. *Refrain*

## Post-Communion Prayer *(Celebrant and People)*

Loving God,  
we give you thanks  
for restoring us in your image  
and nourishing us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.  
Now send us forth  
a people forgiven, healed, renewed;  
that we may proclaim your love to the world  
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

## Night Prayer

Lord,  
It is night.

The night is for stillness.  
Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.  
What has been done has been done;  
What has not been done has not been done;  
Let it be.

The night is dark.  
Let our fears of the darkness of the world  
And in our lives rest in you.

The night is quiet.  
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,  
All dear to us,  
And all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.  
Let us look expectantly to a new day,  
New joys,  
New possibilities.

In your name we pray. AMEN

## Blessing

Life is short, and we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be swift to love. Make haste to be kind, and the blessing of God be with you always. AMEN.

## Closing Song

Give thanks with a grateful heart;  
Give thanks to the Holy One;  
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich,"  
Because of what the Lord has done for us".



## ST. JAMES PARISH

25 South Third Street ♦ Wilmington, NC 28401 ♦ (910) 763-1628 ♦ [parish@stjamesp.org](mailto:parish@stjamesp.org)

 @stjamesp  @stjamesparish

STJAMESP.ORG