

Third Sunday of Lent Year B –7th March 2021

Preparation

If possible arrange candles, a crucifix and a gospel or Sunday Missal on a table.

Introduction

Today is the third Sunday of Lent. (Ask the children if they can tell you what we mean by Lent?) Remind them that it is a time of forty days of preparation for Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday.

In Lent, we do three things to bring us closer to God, so that we may truly celebrate the joy of Easter. During Lent we **PRAY** more, we **FAST** (give up something we like), and we show love or **CHARITY** to those around us by being generous and sharing and not being selfish. The most important of these three actions is prayer.

As we gather at home today we thank God for our families, and for the time we spend together in prayer. We do this today, knowing that God is with us, helping us always especially when times are difficult.

In today's Gospel we hear about when Jesus was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover and how He was angered when He saw animal sellers and money changers treating the temple like a marketplace.

Let's begin our prayers:

Make the Sign of the Cross – a sign of the love God has for us.

An adult lights the candles.

Penitential Act

Adults and children think about how you have behaved in the past week. Especially when your daily routines are different just now- have you shown patience to those around you? Have you been kind and helpful even when you don't feel like it and it's difficult?

Lead the children in singing the "Sorry Song".

We are sorry,
Truly sorry,
Heal us Lord,
In Your love,
Help us to do better, (sung to tune of Frere Jacques)
Forgive us,
Forgive us.

NO Gloria DURING LENT

All stand to welcome the Gospel singing together the **Gospel Acclamation:**

"Share your word with us, Oh Lord, (to the tune of London Bridge
Us Oh Lord, is Falling Down)
Us Oh Lord,
Share Your Word with us, O Lord.
Help us listen."⁽¹⁾

Gospel (John 2:13-25)

Explain and demonstrate– **make three crosses: one on your forehead, one on your lips and one on your heart** (in this way we think God's word, speak God's word and keep God's word in our hearts) **as we say together**

"Glory to You, O Lord."

Use this link to read the Gospel if you don't have a Sunday Missal

<https://cafod.org.uk/education/Children'sLiturgy>

Read the Gospel aloud to the children. At the end say: **"The Gospel of the Lord"**.

All reply: **"Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ"**. Ask everyone to be seated.

Lead a Discussion on the Gospel

What do you remember from today's Gospel reading? Where was Jesus and why?(Jesus was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover and had gone to the temple to pray)

What did Jesus see in the temple that made Him angry? (Jesus saw all the animal sellers selling animals for sacrifice / temple offerings and also the money changers changing foreign pilgrims' money. This made Jesus very angry as these people had no respect for God's house – the temple and were treating it just like a marketplace).

What did Jesus do? (Jesus made a whip with some cord and chased the animals out of the temple after overturning the money changers' tables scattering their coins).

Why did Jesus do this?(Jesus did this out of love and devotion to His Father in Heaven as the temple was His Father's house- the house of God- a place where people went to pray).

What did Jesus say He would do when the people in charge of the temple asked Him for a miracle?(He said if they destroyed "this temple" He would rebuild it in three days).

Explain to the children that when Jesus said this He didn't mean the temple building, but He meant himself. He was meaning that after He was crucified and died, He would rise from the dead three days later.

Discuss how this week in Lent has gone:

What extra prayers/devotions have you made this week?

What things have you given up?

Have you remembered to be kind each other?

Remember – if you're tempted to give up- ask Jesus, Mary, and St. Joseph, to help you to try your best.

Prayers of the Faithful

You may wish to prepare some of these yourselves or ask the children for their prayers. Here are some suggestions for today:

Lord Jesus, help us to try our best during Lent to **fast** by giving up something that we like.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: "**Hear our prayer.**"

Lord Jesus,

When we are allowed to return to church, help us to remember that You are truly present there in the tabernacle waiting for us to come and visit You. Help us always to be respectful and prayerful in Your presence.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: "**Hear our prayer.**"

Lord Jesus, help us to show charity by not being selfish and being kind and generous to others especially those who are different to us.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: "**Hear our prayer.**"

We now pray together saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name:
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us:
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil. **Amen.**

We can also say the following prayer as a **Spiritual Communion.**

(Anyone can do this at any age. Even if you have not made your first Sacramental Holy Communion, or are unable to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion, you can still make a Spiritual communion by saying this prayer).

Spiritual Communion (Prayer of St Alphonsus Liguori)

My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive You Sacramentally,
Come at least spiritually into my soul.
I embrace You as if You were already come,
And I unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. **Amen.**

Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus help us to follow You every day and to **listen** when
You call our names.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

References

1. The Complete Children's Liturgy Book. Katie Thomson, published by Kevin Mayhew. P349.