

MARCH 4, 2018
THIRD SUNDAY
IN LENT



Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God.

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	Matthew 22:34-40	The greatest commandment
Thursday	Matthew 5:43-48	Love for enemies
Friday	Romans 13:8-10	Love for one another
Saturday	Psalms 19	God as creator and giver of the law
Sunday	John 3:14-21	God so loved the world

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles.
1 Corinthians 1:22-23 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God so wise and strong, help us to worship you alone and to follow your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, with all we say, do, and think. Amen.

Mealtimes Prayer:

For all we eat and all we wear, for daily bread and loving care, we thank you, God. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God whose foolishness is wiser than human wisdom and whose weakness is stronger than human strength give life to your soul and joy to your heart. (Psalm 19:7-8)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Change my Heart,
O God*



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- How do you show others that you care for them?
- The Ten Commandments are simple—but not easy—ways to care for others and honor God. Pick one of the Commandments and talk about how it helps you care for your neighbor and honor God?
- God shows love for us through the cross of Christ. How is that a surprising way to show us God's love?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Exodus 20:1-17.

The Ten Commandments tell us how God wants us to live and care for our neighbor. Look at the Ten Commandments, two at a time. Talk about them with others. Pray for God's help to care for others through them. Use them to serve others this week. Consider memorizing the Commandments.

Monday: I am the Lord your God: you shall have not other gods. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Tuesday: Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Honor your father and your mother.

Wednesday: You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery.

Thursday: You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Friday: You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his manservant or his maidservant or his cattle or anything that is your neighbor's.

Pray: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer." (Psalm 19:14)

SERVICE

The Ten Commandments identify Christian vocation, how we live a faithful and loving life as a follower of Jesus. List the work, study, worship, and play activities you do each week and identify which of the Ten Commandments that effort obeys (or disobeys).

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In the cleansing of the temple (John 2:13-22) Jesus spoke of his body as the temple. The church would learn that wherever people worship Jesus, there is the dwelling place of God. This includes your own home. Mark out a place where you dwell to be a special place of worship to pray, meditate, and even sing hymns to God. Go to that place and read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 and pray: **Dear Jesus, help me to receive and trust the message of the cross that is the power and wisdom of God. Help me to honor this space to know and remember that you are with me to love you and care for others. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Amen.**



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