

O Lord, open our lips

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Hear our voice, O Lord according to your faithful love.

According to your judgment give us life.

A candle may be lit and silence is kept.

Opening Prayer

Blessed are you, God of compassion and mercy,
to you be praise and glory for ever.

In the darkness of our sin,
your light breaks forth like the dawn
and your healing springs up for deliverance.

As we rejoice in the gift of your saving help,
sustain us with your bountiful Spirit
and open our lips to sing your praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

Prayer of Confession

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise. Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

Lord Jesus, you wept over the sins of your city.

On our village communities: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division,
jealousy and bitterness. On us: Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you bring pardon and peace to the sinner.

Grant us peace: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

May the God of love bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God our Father, in your love and goodness
you have taught us to come close to you in penitence
with prayer, fasting and generosity; accept our Lenten discipline,
and when we fall by our weakness,
raise us up by your unfailing mercy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Psalm 63:1-9

- 1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; ♦
my soul is athirst for you.
- 2 My flesh also faints for you, ♦
as in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.
- 3 So would I gaze upon you in your holy place, ♦
that I might behold your power and your glory.
- 4 Your loving-kindness is better than life itself ♦
and so my lips shall praise you.
- 5 I will bless you as long as I live ♦
and lift up my hands in your name.
- 6 My soul shall be satisfied, as with marrow and fatness, ♦
and my mouth shall praise you with joyful lips,
- 7 When I remember you upon my bed ♦
and meditate on you in the watches of the night.
- 8 For you have been my helper ♦
and under the shadow of your wings will I rejoice.
- 9 My soul clings to you; ♦
your right hand shall hold me fast.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

The Bible readings for the Third Sunday of LENT

Isaiah 55:1-9 – *Isaiah instructs the people to accept God's wonderful invitation to return to him, the one who is always faithful, just and merciful.*

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 - *Paul urges the believers in Corinth to heed the warnings from the past and not to set their hearts on evil things and turn away from God.*

Luke 13:1-9 - *Jesus commands his listeners to act now and to repent and return to God, whilst they still have time.*

A few moments of quiet for thought, thanksgiving & reflection.

These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come.

So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind.

And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. *(1 Cor 10:11-13)*

Creed

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,**

but made himself nothing.

**Taking the form of a servant,
he was born in human likeness.**

**He humbled himself and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.**

**Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

(cf Philippians 2.6-11)

Prayers *(we can add our own prayers at each section)*

Let us bring to the Father our prayers of intercession through Christ who gave himself for the life of the world.

For forgiveness for the many times, we have denied Jesus...

For grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean spiritual death,
and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Christian people, that through the suffering of disunity there may grow a rich union in Christ...

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Look in your mercy upon the world you loved so much that you sent your Son to suffer and to die. For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace, and especially we pray for peace in Ukraine...

Strengthen those who work to share the reconciliation won at such a cost upon the cross, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow, and feel that God is far from them... For all who are weighed down by suffering, pain and isolation ... Bring healing by the wounds of Christ.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help the lonely and the betrayed, the suffering and the dying, to find hope, comfort and strength in the love and power of Jesus Christ...

Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

When Christ emerged from the wilderness,
he was filled afresh with the Holy Spirit;
grant that we may be cleansed and refreshed
through this Lenten season and filled afresh by your power,
to do and be all that you desire. **Amen.**

The Collect for the Third Sunday of Lent

Almighty God,
whose most dear son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we,
walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *(or traditional form, if you prefer)*

**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.
Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations
of the world, the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you,
the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Blessing

Christ, give us grace to grow in holiness,
to deny ourselves, to take up our cross and follow him;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with us and all who we love
and pray for, now and always. **Amen.**

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