

THE THIRD WEDNESDAY IN LENT
MARCH 10, 2021

Theme of the Day: Who will take the garbage out? Zechariah knows. In the prophet's seventh vision, the LORD's Messenger removes the garbage for all people for all time!

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP (From selected verses in Zechariah 9:9–10)

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Behold, your King comes to you—

C: **Righteous and having salvation.**

P: Speaking peace to the nations.

C: **And ruling from sea to sea—**

P: To the ends of the earth!

C: **God's kingdom comes—**

P: To us!

All: **Through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

HYMN

Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

#435:1-3

1 Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain,
Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain
Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide,
Opened when our Savior died.

2 Come in poverty and meanness,
Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness,
From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white;
Ye shall walk with God in light.

3 Come in sorrow and contrition,
Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission,
Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore;
They that drink shall thirst no more.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Come to Calvary's holy mountain, sinners ruined by the fall.
C: **Here, a pure and healing fountain flows for you, for me, for all.**
P: In a full, perpetual tide—
C: **Opened when our Savior died!**
P: Coming to Calvary's holy mountain, we confess our sins.

Silence for reflection and confession.

P: Merciful Father—
C: **I am wrapped up in myself.**
P: I cling to comfort and choose the easy way.
C: **I want tweaking not transformation.**
P: Greed, envy, intolerance and jealousy mark my life.
C: **I fail to learn, and what I have learned, I fail to practice.**
P: I judge others with a standard I never use for myself.
All: **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**
P: Zechariah 13:1 states, "On that day there will be a fountain opened to cleanse from sin and uncleanness." Because of Christ's cross and crucifixion—Zechariah's day is today. Here, a pure and healing fountain flows for you, for me, for all. In a full, perpetual tide opened when our Savior died. In Jesus' name, you are absolved, forgiven and loved! God's kingdom comes to us—
All: **Through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

HYMN Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain **#435:4**

4 They that drink shall live forever;
'Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never
Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died,
Sealed when He was glorified.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**
P: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, in Zechariah's seventh vision, you take away the sin of Judeans. We thank and praise you that in a much greater way you take away the sin of the world through the sacrificial Lamb—Jesus Christ our Lord. We pray in his powerful and priceless name.
All: **Amen.**

THE READINGS ARE ABOUT GOD TAKING AWAY ALL SIN

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Zechariah 5:5–11

Then the angel who talked with me came forward and said to me, "Lift your eyes and see what this is that is going out." And I said, "What is it?" He said, "This is the basket that is going out."

And he said, "This is their iniquity in all the land." And behold, the leaden cover was lifted, and there was a woman sitting in the basket! And he said, "This is Wickedness." And he thrust her back into the basket, and thrust down the leaden weight on its opening. Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, two women coming forward! The wind was in their wings. They had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between earth and heaven. Then I said to the angel who talked with me, "Where are they taking the basket?" He said to me, "To the land of Shinar, to build a house for it. And when this is prepared, they will set the basket down there on its base."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

[Silence for Meditation on the Lesson]

EPISTLE LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:17–21

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

E: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

[Silence for Meditation on the Lesson]

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 5:1–13

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fifth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and bruising himself with stones. And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them." So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out, and entered the pigs, and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and were drowned in the sea.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTELS' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life T everlasting. Amen.**

SERMON "Who Will Take the Garbage Out?" Zechariah 5:5–11

WE CONFESS from Catechism

ALL: We pray, "And lead us not into temptation."

P: What does this mean?

ALL: God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

ALL: We pray, "But deliver us from evil."

P: What does this mean?

ALL: We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

OFFERING & HYMN

Just As I Am

#570

**1 Just as I am, without one plea But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**2 Just as I am and waiting not To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

3 Just as I am, though tossed about With many_a conflict, many_a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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PRAYERS

P: Our King comes to us, righteous and having salvation. May God hear our prayers, because of our crucified and risen King—Christ Jesus.

A brief silence

P: Heavenly Father, as you first came to us, claiming us as your own, we welcome you into our lives—

C: We make ourselves available to your holy will.

P: Help us become living examples of your love in the world.

C: Open our hearts to the areas of our lives that need to change—

P: So we carry out the mission of our church—

C: *Connecting People to Jesus.*

P: Inspire us to live the Christian life—

C: In ways that are dynamic and engaging.

P: Bring renewal to our church.

C: And make us hunger and thirst for more of Jesus.

P: Give us courage when we are afraid.

C: Hope when we are discouraged.

P: And clarity in times of decision.

Additional prayers

P: They that drink shall live forever; 'tis a soul renewing flood.

C: God is faithful; God will never, break his covenant of blood.

P: Signed when our Redeemer died—

All: Sealed when he was glorified. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION (From Zechariah 9:9–10)

P: Behold, your King comes to you—

C: Righteous and having salvation.

P: Speaking peace to the nations.

C: And ruling from sea to sea—

P: To the ends of the earth!
C: **God's kingdom comes to us.**
P: By his Spirit.
C: **God's kingdom comes through us—**
P: To the ends of the earth!
All: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN Chief of Sinners Though I Be #611

1 Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.

2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me—wondrous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.

3 Only Jesus can impart Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n, Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.

4 Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known, All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life Safe with Him from earthly strife.

5 O my Savior, help afford By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.

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SILENT PRAYER Who will take the garbage out? Jesus, you will—all of it. Thank you, forever!
Amen.