

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Collect

O God, the fountain of life,
to a humanity parched with thirst
you offer the living water that springs from the Rock,
our Saviour Jesus Christ:
stir up within your people the gift of your Spirit,
that we may profess our faith with freshness
and announce with joy the wonder of your love.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

1st Reading

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. **5** You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. **6** Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. **7** Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. **8** Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, **9** and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Psalm

Psalm 32.1-11

1 Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. **2** Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. **3** While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. **4** For day and

night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. (Selah) **5** Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. (Selah) **6** Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. **7** You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. (Selah) **8** I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. **9** Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you. **10** Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. **11** Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

2nd Reading

Colossians 4:2-6

2 Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving. **3** At the same time pray for us as well that God will open to us a door for the word, that we may declare the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison, **4** so that I may reveal it clearly, as I should. **5** Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. **6** Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone.

Gospel

Matthew 28:16-20

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. **17** When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. **18** And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and

teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."