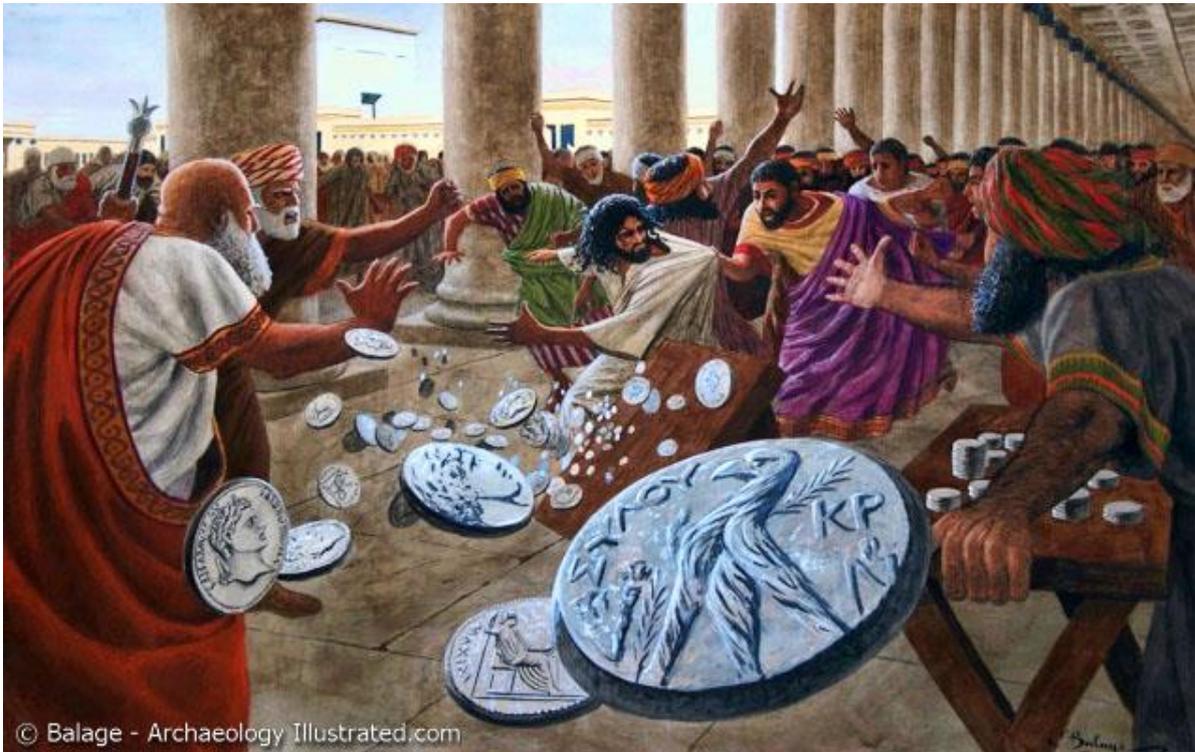


**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 2021**  
**ALL SAINTS WITLEY: LITURGY OF THE WORD**



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

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

**HYMN**

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;  
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,  
but they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me.  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;  
they came with me and the Dance went on:  
*Dance, then, wherever you may be ...*

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;  
the holy people said it was a shame.  
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high,  
and they left me there on a cross to die:  
*Dance, then, wherever you may be ...*

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;  
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back.  
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;  
but I am the Dance and I still go on.  
*Dance, then, wherever you may be ...*

They cut me down and I leapt up high;  
I am the life that'll never, never die;  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he:  
*Dance, then, wherever you may be ...*

### **COLLECT**

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **CONFESSION**

Let us confess our sins, remembering before God the times when we have fallen from temptation into sin.

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

### **ABSOLUTION**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## READINGS

### **New Testament:** 1 Corinthians 1. 18 – 25

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

### **Gospel:** John 2. 13 – 22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, ‘Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a market-place!’ His disciples remembered that it was written, ‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’ The Jews then said to him, ‘What sign can you show us for doing this?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ The Jews then said, ‘This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?’ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

**SERMON**      AST Team

**SONG**            sung by the Band

*The Lord’s my Shepherd (Psalm 23)*

Stuart Townend

The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want;  
he makes me lie in pastures green.  
He leads me by the still, still waters,  
his goodness restores my soul.  
*And I will trust in you alone,  
and I will trust in you alone,  
for your endless mercy follows me,  
your goodness will lead me home.*

He guides my ways in righteousness,  
and he anoints my head with oil,  
and my cup, it overflows with joy,  
I feast on his pure delights.  
*And I will trust in you alone ...*

And though I walk the darkest path,  
I will not fear the evil one,  
for you are with me, and your rod and staff  
are the comfort I need to know.  
*And I will trust in you alone ... (chorus repeated)*

## **PRAYERS**

For true holiness in the Church and in the world, let us pray to the Lord.

Shield the Church from all that would corrupt her witness and make her unworthy of her Master. May her places of worship be holy and her ministry unblemished by desire for material gain and worldly success.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Have mercy on the world, where profit too often stands before people and the love of money is a stronger motive than the love of holiness. Drive out the false values by which some grow rich and many are poor, until the whole earth becomes a temple fit for the Lord.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Bless us, our families and friends, with such reverence in our faith that we may value the holiness that is in other people. Grant to those who conduct their business in this community the spirit of fair dealing and mutual respect.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Have mercy on all who have suffered loss from the dishonesty of those they trusted. Release from evil those who have made material profit their goal and have lost the peace of contentment.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for the departed, who having worshipped in this world have died with Christ and been raised up with him. May they rejoice in the heavenly Temple, where he is the eternal light.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray in the name of Christ, who drives out all that is evil.

**Amen.**

### **THE PEACE**

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

**HYMN**            sung by the Junior Choir

Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it,  
for by his power each tree and flower was planned and made.

Jesus is Lord! The universe declares it;  
sun, moon and stars in heaven cry: Jesus is Lord!

*Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord!*

*praise him with Halleluias, for Jesus is Lord!*

Jesus is Lord! Yet from his throne eternal  
in flesh he came to die in pain on Calvary's tree.

Jesus is Lord! From him all life proceeding,  
yet gave his life a ransom, thus setting us free:

*Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord!*

*praise him with Halleluias, for Jesus is Lord!*

Jesus is Lord! O'er sin the mighty conqueror,  
from death he rose; and all his foes shall own his name.

Jesus is Lord! God sends his Holy Spirit  
to show by works of power that Jesus is Lord:

*Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord!*

*praise him with Halleluias, for Jesus is Lord!*

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## **NOTICES**

### **BLESSING**

God, who from the death of sin raised you to new life in Christ,  
keep you from falling and set you in the presence of his glory;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Piano Voluntary

