

A Cleansing of the Heart

John 2:13-22 // For the Third Sunday of Lent

Learning to put aside greed, wealth, and what we think is good for us, and trusting God to guide us and give us a pure heart to worship and praise Him.

CHOOSING SCRIPTURE // FOR THE FOUNDATION

The following passage from John 2:13-22 lays out a thematic foundation for this service. Other passages that support this theme and might be utilized throughout the service include:

- ◆ Exodus 20:1-17
- ◆ Psalm 19
- ◆ Corinthians 1:18-25

CHOOSING MUSIC // FOR SINGING

- ◆ **I Want Jesus to Walk with Me**

Text and Music: African American Spiritual, Nolan Williams, Jr.
Public Domain

- ◆ **How Great Thou Art**

Text and Music: Stuart K. Hine, Swedish folk melody; adpt. Stuart K. Hine
1949 and 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust (U.S.A. print rights admin. Hope Publishing Company. All other U.S.A. rights admin. EMICMGPublishing.com)

- ◆ **Deliver Us**

Text and Music: Andrew Peterson, Dustin Loehrs
2004 New Spring (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) CCLI Song No. 4752291

- ◆ **Run to The Father**

Text and Music: Cody Carnes, Matt Maher, Ran Jackson, Dan Galbraith
2018 Be Essential Songs, I Am a Pilgrim, Richmond Park Publishing (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing)
Writers Roof Publishing, Capitol CMG Paragon (Admin. by Capitol Publishing) CCLI Song No. 7133494

CREATING DRAMA // FOR HEARING

Read the scripture passages above. Then, introduce and show these two videos from Work of the People [workofthepeople.com] and Worship House Media [worshiphousemedia.com]

[How Great Thou Art](#) will go along with the song choice and can run before, during, or after service.

[The Ten Commandments](#) can be used if the sermon is based on Exodus 20:1-17.

FINDING ART // FOR SEEING



Christ Expelling the Money Changers in the Temple is a painting by artist Greco (1541-1614). It is currently displayed at the National Gallery (Great Britain) in London, United Kingdom. This pairs well with the main scripture passage (John 2:13-22) and can be used in many ways during the service or small groups. You can find this painting [here](#).

LIVING WORSHIP // FOR DOING

Discuss these passages within your service or in small groups.

- ◆ What does John 2:13-22 say about us as humans?
- ◆ Do we continue to do the things today that made Christ angry in this passage?
- ◆ Why do many people feel the Ten Commandments are relevant to this day and age?
- ◆ How can we continue to follow those laws to glorify God?
- ◆ How can we put aside our own wisdom and trust the wisdom of God?
- ◆ How can we rejoice and praise God in a time of lament and sorrow?

MAKING SPACE // FOR WORSHIPING

Continue keeping the worship space as minimal as possible with decorations and flowers as we are going through a season of suffering and preparation for the resurrected Christ at Easter. Along with this, continue to refrain from singing or saying the word “alleluia”. As stated above, this is a time of suffering and preparation, not a time of praise yet. Using the color purple during lent represents death and suffering, but also royalty.

WRITING POETRY // FOR PRAYING

Here is a thematic prayer that can be used in this service:

God of wilderness and water,
 your Son was baptized and tempted as we are.
 Guide us through this season,
 that we may not avoid struggle,
 but open ourselves to blessing,
 through the cleansing depths of repentance

and the heaven-rending words of the Spirit. Amen.

Here is an intercessory prayer that can be used in this service:

Faithful God of love,
you blessed us with your servant Son
so that we might know how to serve your people
with justice and mercy.
We gather the needs of ourselves and others,
and offer them to you in faith and love,
seeking to be strengthened to meet them.
Shape us and transform us by your grace,
that we may grow in wisdom and in confidence,
never faltering until we have done all that you desire
to bring your realm of shalom to fulfillment. Amen.

Here is a scripture-based prayer that can be used in this service:

Holy One, creator of the stars and seas,
your steadfast love is shown to every living thing:
your word calls forth countless words and souls;
your law revives and refreshes.
Forgive our misuse of our gifts,
that we may be transformed by your wisdom
to manifest for others
the mercy of our crucified and risen Lord. Amen.

All prayers listed above can be found [here](#) on The Revised Common Lectionary website.



SAMPLE WORSHIP SERVICE

A Cleansing of the Heart/Third Sunday of Lent // Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22 // Lent

Learning to put aside greed, wealth, and what we think is good for us, and trusting God to guide us day by day giving us a pure heart to worship and praise Him.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come to the Lord, who is rich in grace;
 approach our God, who is full of mercy.
**We will praise God with all our heart
 and glorify the name of the Most High forever.**

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PROCESSION

WELCOME

Welcome everyone and invite them to prepare their hearts and minds for worship.

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 20:1-17
 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

SONGS OF WORSHIP

How Great Thou Art

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 19

Prayer of Illumination

Eternal God,
 your kingdom has broken into our troubled world
 through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son.
 Help us to hear your word and obey it,
 that we may become instruments of your saving love;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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SCRIPTURE READING

John 2:13-22

SONGS OF WORSHIP

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

MESSAGE

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT// EUCHARIST

CLOSING SONG

Deliver Us
Run to the Father

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Life and Ministry of our Church

BENEDICTION

May God himself, the God of peace,
sanctify you through and through.
May your whole spirit, soul and body
be kept blameless
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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SENT OUT TO SERVE