

Third Sunday of Lent

7th March 2021

Preparing the prayer space

Place a purple cloth on the table or floor (purple – the colour for Lent)

Place a cross, bible and candle on it. Light the candle or use a battery-operated candle for safety. Add any other symbols relevant to your family.

Prepare materials

- Youtube as listed on sheet: Scripture story and song
- Suggested activities: your choice or other related activity on sheet
- Print out sheet if required



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)
<http://cdn.www.ministry-to-children.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/jesus-clear-temple.jpg>

Gather around the prayer space as a family

Parent/Caregiver:

Today, we hear that Jesus cleanses the temple. He saw that people were selling things in the temple and this made him angry that the people were not seeing it as a holy place for prayer.

Opening prayer: Heavenly Father, we ask you to help us clear out all the distractions and noise in our hearts. Help us to make changes in our lives so we can make space in our hearts to love you more. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to John (2:13-22).

All: Glory to you O, Lord.

Not long before the Jewish festival of Passover, Jesus went to Jerusalem. There he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves in the temple. He also saw moneychangers sitting at their tables. So he took some rope and made a whip. Then he chased everyone out of the temple, together with their sheep and cattle. He turned over the tables of the moneychangers and scattered their coins.

Jesus said to the people who had been selling doves, "Get those doves out of here! Don't make my Father's house a marketplace." The disciples then remembered that the Scriptures say, "My love for your house burns in me like a fire."

The Jewish leaders asked Jesus, "What miracle will you work to show us why you have done this?" "Destroy this temple," Jesus answered, "and in three days I will build it again!"

The leaders replied, "It took forty-six years to build this temple. What makes you think you can rebuild it in three days?"

But Jesus was talking about his body as a temple. And when he was raised from death, his disciples remembered what he had told them. Then they believed the Scriptures and the words of Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

(Gospel text © Lectionary for Masses with Children (1993) Catholic Book Publishing Co. New York)

Prayerfully watch the videos together

Jesus Clearing the Temple <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WL0VY5FD6wA>

Or <https://vimeo.com/231275779>

Scripture reflection and time of sharing:

I wonder why people were selling things in the temple ...

I wonder why Jesus was angry...

I wonder what Jesus meant when he said, "Don't make my Father's house a marketplace."...

I wonder what the disciples were thinking...

I wonder if the hearts of the people selling things changed...

I wonder what changes I can make in my life to make more space for God...

Let us sing together our beliefs as Christians:

Apostle's Creed Song - by Adam Zarn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nTG2hLu6ZcA> (2.35 mins)

Intercessions: Let us now spend some time in prayer asking God to listen to our needs.
(We respond to the prayers by saying the words 'Lord, hear our prayer')

1 We pray for Pope Francis, Archbishop Patrick O'Regan, all Church and world leaders: that they will lead by example and encourage others to walk in faith and kindness.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

2 We pray for more people to see Jesus as the way, the truth and the life.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

3 We pray for our churches that they will continue to be places where people can come together and feel the love of God.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

4 We pause for a moment and pray in our hearts or aloud for any intentions or people we would like to pray for at this time (*pause*)
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

6 We pray for all people who have died recently and or are suffering at this time. May they find their resting place with Jesus.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

Closing prayer: Heavenly Father, help us to find you in each place that we visit. We pray that we may love and respect you the same way Jesus does. Amen.

Closing song: *Glory to Your Name* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7kNEG5m_GE (3:49 mins)

Follow up activity suggestions after the time of prayer has come to a close.

- Write a prayer to Jesus in your prayer journal (special notebook).
- **Temple Prayers**
Using Jenga blocks build a new temple. For each block you pull out: say or write an action you can do, to make your life better. Then place the block in a new spot to build a new temple (from Interactive Prayer Station #4: Temple Prayers <https://theresaecho.com/2018/01/22/interactive-prayer-stations-on-cleansing-the-temple-epiphany-john-2/>)
- **What's the difference? Activity Sheet**
Look at the different things that people are doing in the temple. Can you spot the differences between the 2 pictures? (Pg 11 <http://storage.cloversites.com/peninsulacommunitychapel/documents/May%203%20Younger.pdf>)