

# Monday 09 Mar 2026 of the third week of Lent

## First Reading 2 Kings 5:1-15

### A reading from the second book of the Kings

Naaman, army commander to the king of Aram, was a man who enjoyed his master's respect and favour, since through him the Lord had granted victory to the Aramaeans. But the man was a leper. Now on one of their raids, the Aramaeans had carried off from the land of Israel a little girl who had become a servant of Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, 'If only my master would approach the prophet of Samaria. He would cure him of his leprosy.' Naaman went and told his master. 'This and this' he reported 'is what the girl from the land of Israel said.' 'Go by all means,' said the king of Aram 'I will send a letter to the king of Israel.' So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten festal robes. He presented the letter to the king of Israel. It read: 'With this letter, I am sending my servant Naaman to you for you to cure him of his leprosy.' When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his garments. 'Am I a god to give death and life,' he said 'that he sends a man to me and asks me to cure him of his leprosy? Listen to this, and take note of it and see how he intends to pick a quarrel with me.' When Elisha heard that the king of Israel had torn his garments, he sent word to the king, 'Why did you tear your garments? Let him come to me, and he will find there is a prophet in Israel.' So Naaman came with his team and chariot and drew up at the door of Elisha's house. And Elisha sent him a messenger to say, 'Go and bathe seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will become clean once more.' But Naaman was indignant and went off, saying, 'Here was I thinking he would be sure to come out to me, and stand there, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the spot and cure the leprous part. Surely Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, are better than any water in Israel? Could I not bathe in them and become clean?' And he turned round and went off in a rage. But his servants approached him and said, 'My father, if the prophet had asked you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? All the more reason, then, when he says to you, "Bathe and you will become clean." So, he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, as Elisha had told him to do. And his flesh became clean once more like the flesh of a little child.

Returning to Elisha with his whole escort, he went in and stood before him. 'Now I know' he said 'that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel.'

### Responsorial Psalm PS 41:2-3; 42:3-4. R. Ps 41:3

#### (R.) My soul is thirsting for the living God: when shall I see him face to face?

1. Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God. (R.)
2. My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life; when can I enter and see the face of God? (R.)
3. O send forth your light and your truth;

let these be my guide. Let them bring me to your holy mountain to the place where you dwell. (R.)  
4. And I will come to the altar of God, the God of my joy. My redeemer, I will thank you on the harp, O God, my God. (R.)

### Gospel Acclamation See Psalm 129:5. 7

**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word; with him there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

### Gospel Luke 4:24-30

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus came to Nazara and spoke to the people in the synagogue: 'I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country. 'There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah's day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha's time there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these was cured, except the Syrian, Naaman.'

When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him down the cliff, but he slipped through the crowd and walked away.

## Tuesday 10 Mar 2026 of the third week of Lent

### First Reading Daniel 3:25. 34-43

#### A reading from the prophet Daniel

Azariah stood in the heart of the fire, and he began to pray:

Oh! Do not abandon us for ever, for the sake of your name; do not repudiate your covenant, do not withdraw your favour from us, for the sake of Abraham, your friend, of Isaac your servant, and of Israel your holy one, to whom you promised descendants as countless as the stars of heaven and as the grains of sand on the seashore. Lord, now we are the least of all the nations, now we are despised throughout the world, today because of our sins.

We have at this time no leader, no prophet, no prince, no holocaust, no sacrifice, no oblation, no incense, no place where we can offer you the first-fruits and win your favour. But may the contrite soul, the humbled spirit be as acceptable to you as holocausts of rams and bullocks, as thousands of fattened lambs: such let our sacrifice be to you today, and may it be your will that we follow you wholeheartedly, since those who put their trust in you will not be disappointed. And now we put our whole heart into following you, into fearing you and seeking your face once more. Do not disappoint us: treat us gently, as you yourself are gentle and very merciful. Grant us deliverance worthy of your wonderful deeds, let your name win glory, Lord.

#### Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6

#### (R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour. (R.)
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.
3. Do not remember the sins of my youth  
because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)  
The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray.  
He guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

#### Gospel Acclamation Joel 2:12-13

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate.**

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

#### Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.

'And so, the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time" he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me" he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

## **Wednesday 11 Mar 2026 of the third week of Lent**

### **First Reading Deuteronomy 4:1. 5-9**

#### **A reading from the book of Deuteronomy**

Moses said to the people: 'And now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. See, as the Lord my God has commanded me, I teach you the laws and customs that you are to observe in the land you are to enter and make your own. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?

'But take care what you do and be on your guard. Do not forget the things your eyes have seen, nor let them slip from your heart all the days of your life; rather, tell them to your children and to your children's children.'

### **Responsorial Psalm Ps 147:12-13. 15-16. 19-20. R. v.12**

#### **(R.) Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.**

1. O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!  
Zion, praise your God!  
He has strengthened the bars of your gates,  
he has blessed the children within you. (R.)
2. He sends out his word to the earth  
and swiftly runs his command.  
He showers down snow white as wool,  
scatters hoar-frost like ashes. (R.)
3. He makes his word known to Jacob,  
to Israel his laws and decrees.  
He has not dealt thus with other nations;  
he has not taught them his decrees. (R.)

### **Gospel Acclamation See John 6:63. 68**

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**Your words, Lord, are spirit and life; you have the words of everlasting life.**

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

### **Gospel Matthew 5:17-19**

#### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.'

## **Thursday 12 Mar 2026 of the third week of Lent**

### **First Reading Jeremiah 7:23-28**

#### **A reading from the prophet Jeremiah**

These were my orders: Listen to my voice, then I will be your God and you shall be my people. Follow right to the end the way that I mark out for you, and you will prosper. But they did not listen, they did not pay attention; they followed the dictates of their own evil hearts, refused to face me, and turned their backs on me. From the day your ancestors came out of the land of Egypt until today, day after day I have persistently sent you all my servants the prophets. But they have not listened to me, have not paid attention; they have grown stubborn and behaved worse than their ancestors. You may say all these words to them: they will not listen to you; you may call them: they will not answer. So, tell them this, 'Here is the nation that will not listen to the voice of the Lord its God nor take correction. Sincerity is no more; it has vanished from their mouths.'

#### **Responsorial Psalm Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8**

##### **(R.) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks;  
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (R.)

#### **Gospel Acclamation Joel 2:12-13**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**  
**With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate.**  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

#### **Gospel Luke 11:14-23**

##### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

Jesus was casting out a devil and it was dumb; but when the devil had gone out the dumb man spoke, and the people were amazed. But some of them said, 'It is through Beelzebul, the prince of devils, that he casts out devils.' Others asked him, as a test, for a sign from heaven; but, knowing what they were thinking, he said to them, 'Every kingdom divided against itself is heading for ruin, and a household divided against itself collapses. So too with Satan: if he is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? – since you assert that it is through Beelzebul that I cast out devils. Now if it is through Beelzebul that I cast out devils, through whom do your own experts cast them out? Let them be your judges, then. But if it is through the finger of God that I cast out devils, then know that the kingdom of God has overtaken you. So long as a strong man fully armed guards his own palace, his goods are undisturbed; but when someone stronger than he is attacks and defeats him, the stronger man takes away all the weapons he relied on and shares out his spoil.

'He who is not with me is against me; and he who does not gather with me scatters.'

## Friday 13 Mar 2026 of the third week of Lent

### First Reading Hosea 14:2-10

#### A reading from the prophet Hosea

##### The Lord says this:

Israel, come back to the Lord your God; your iniquity was the cause of your downfall. Provide yourself with words and come back to the Lord. Say to him, 'Take all iniquity away so that we may have happiness again and offer you our words of praise. Assyria cannot save us, we will not ride horses any more, or say, "Our God!" to what our own hands have made, for you are the one in whom orphans find compassion.' – I will heal their disloyalty, I will love them with all my heart, for my anger has turned from them. I will fall like dew on Israel. He shall bloom like the lily, and thrust out roots like the poplar, his shoots will spread far; he will have the beauty of the olive and the fragrance of Lebanon. They will come back to live in my shade; they will grow corn that flourishes, they will cultivate vines as renowned as the wine of Helbon. What has Ephraim to do with idols any more when it is I who hear his prayer and care for him? I am like a cypress ever green; all your fruitfulness comes from me. Let the wise man understand these words. Let the intelligent man grasp their meaning. For the ways of the Lord are straight, and virtuous men walk in them, but sinners stumble.

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 80:6. 8-11. 14. 17. R. vv.9. 11.

#### (R.) I am the Lord, your God: hear my voice.

1. A voice I did not know, said to me:

'I freed your shoulder from the burden;  
your hands were freed from the load.

You called in distress and I saved you. (R.)

2. 'I answered, concealed in the storm cloud, at  
the waters of Meribah I tested you.

Listen, my people, to my warning,  
O Israel, if only you would heed! (R.)

and fill them with honey from the rock.' (R.)

3. 'Let there be no foreign god among you,  
no worship of an alien god.

I am the Lord your God,  
who brought you from the land of Egypt? (R.)

4. 'O that my people would heed me,  
that Israel would walk in my ways!

But Israel I would feed with finest wheat

### Gospel Acclamation Matthew 4:17

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

### Gospel Mark 12:28-34

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him anymore.

## **Saturday 14 Mar 2026 of the third week of Lent**

### **First Reading Hosea 5:15 – 6:6**

#### **A reading from the prophet Hosea**

##### **The Lord says this:**

They will search for me in their misery: 'Come, let us return to the Lord.  
He has torn us to pieces, but he will heal us;  
he has struck us down, but he will bandage our wounds;  
after a day or two he will bring us back to life,  
on the third day he will raise us and we shall live in his presence.  
Let us set ourselves to know the Lord;  
that he will come is as certain as the dawn,  
his judgement will rise like the light,  
he will come to us as showers come,  
like spring rains watering the earth.'

What am I to do with you, Ephraim?  
What am I to do with you, Judah?  
This love of yours is like a morning cloud,  
like the dew that quickly disappears.  
This is why I have torn them to pieces by the prophets,  
why I slaughtered them with the words of my mouth,  
since what I want is love, not sacrifice; knowledge of God, not holocausts.

### **Responsorial Psalm Ps 50:3-4. 18-21. R. see Hos 6:6**

#### **(R.) It is steadfast love, not sacrifice, that God desires.**

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)
2. For in sacrifice you take no delight,  
burnt offering from me you would refuse,  
my sacrifice, a contrite spirit.  
A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn. (R.)
3. In your goodness, show favour to Zion:  
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.  
Then you will be pleased with lawful sacrifice,  
burnt offerings wholly consumed. (R.)

### **Gospel Acclamation See Psalm 94:8**

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**  
**If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**  
**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

### **Gospel Luke 18:9-14**

#### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else, 'Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get." The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'