

THE LESSONS APPOINTED FOR USE ON WEDNESDAY IN THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT

Deuteronomy 4:1–2,5–9

Matthew 5:17–19

Psalms 78:1–6

Preface of Lent

THE COLLECT

Give ear to our prayers, O Lord, and direct the way of your servants in safety under your protection, that, amid all the changes of our earthly pilgrimage, we may be guarded by your mighty aid; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

OLD TESTAMENT: DEUTERONOMY 4:1–2,5–9

Moses said: So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

See, just as the Lord my God has charged me, I now teach you statutes and ordinances for you to observe in the land that you are about to enter and occupy. You must observe them diligently, for this

will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

PSALM 78:1–6

1. Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
2. I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
3. That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.
4. We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, *
and the wonderful works he has done.
5. He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their children;

6. That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5:17–19

Jesus said, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

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