

*Nurturing Faith...*  
*Every Day in Every Way*



March 4, 2018

**Third Sunday in Lent**

**Exodus 20:1-17**  
**Psalm 19 (8)**  
**I Corinthians 1:18-25**  
**John 2:13-22**



**Spring Cleaning.** *Object: A mop, pail, sponges, and other cleaning supplies.*

Spring is just a few weeks away. It is such a wonderful time of the year. The temperature begins to warm, and the world begins to take on a fresh new look. Everything is beautiful! Another sign that spring is here is that many people have started their spring cleaning.

Look at all of this stuff I brought with me this morning. It looks like I am getting ready to clean house. Spring is a good time to give your house a good going over and clean everything up.

Did you know that Jesus did some spring cleaning? It was time for the annual Passover celebration, so Jesus traveled to Jerusalem. Jesus went to the temple and He couldn't believe his eyes. There in the temple area he saw people who were selling cattle, sheep, and doves for the people to use as sacrifices in the temple. There were tables set up for money changers so that people could change their money to pay their temple taxes. It looked more like a carnival than a house of worship.

Jesus did not like what he saw. He was so angry that he made a whip from some rope and he drove the cattle and sheep and those who were selling them from the temple. He went to the tables of the money changers and turned them over, scattering coins all over the temple floor.

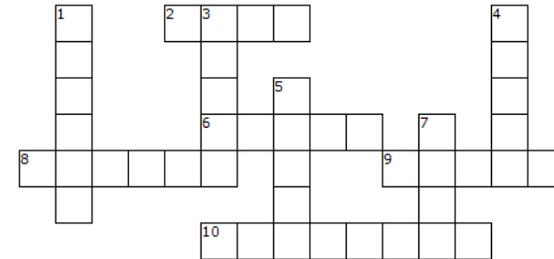
We are in a season called Lent. The word Lent meant 'the season of spring'. But it has now become much more than that. It is a time to look inside ourselves and see if there is anything in us that needs to be changed. Are there some areas of your life where Jesus needs to do some 'spring cleaning'?

Dear Jesus, during this time when we think of 'spring cleaning' we ask you to forgive us when we do wrong and to make us clean. Amen.

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**Gospel Acclamation:** We proclaim Christ crucified, the power of God and the wisdom of God. (1 Cor. 1:23, 24)

# Crossword Puzzle



**ACROSS**

- 2. A strip of leather or cord fastened to a handle
- 6. An animal raised for its wool
- 8. A church or synagogue, a building for worship
- 9. Coins or bills used to pay for something
- 10. A Jewish holiday celebrating being freed from slavery in Egypt

**DOWN**

- 1. A place where people gather to buy and sell things
- 3. A building where a family lives
- 4. A piece of furniture with a smooth, flat surface and four legs
- 5. The Son of God
- 7. A small, wild pigeon

WHIP	MARKET	PASSOVER	SHEEP	TEMPLE
HOUSE	TABLE	MONEY	JESUS	DOVE

**HEART FINGER PAINTING:** Give the child finger paints and paper to finger paint a large heart with many colors swirled around the heart. The child can use glitter to decorate their painting or use their finger to write some important words from today's lesson.



# JESUS CLEANING THE TEMPLE

