

Exodus 20:1-17 (Old Testament reading for the 3rd Sunday of Lent)

It took God an incarnation to embody God's message largely found in the Ten Commandments. This is part of the dilemma of the Commandments. We cannot just keep the Commandments and save ourselves. They convict us of our sins. They also make us realize that we need to seek God's mercy and forgiveness which God gives in Jesus Christ. This is where the cleansing of the temple we live in is fulfilled. Just as God sent Jesus to us out of love for us, the Commandments arose out of God's love for us as well. They were intended to be administered in a spirit of love and restore life in community that is marked by love. Jesus gives us a new commandment to obey: "Love one another as I have loved you." Living the new life in Christ through baptism, grace, and the power of the Holy Spirit, we are to be obedient to the commands of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ.