

Sunday Prayer at Home

Fourth Sunday of LENT

Year B



Introduction and Act of Repentance

The first word of today's antiphon is "Rejoice" – in Latin, Laetare; and so this Sunday has traditionally been known as "Laetare Sunday". in anticipation of the joy that will be ours at Easter.

Penitential Act:

Every Mass is an invitation to rejoice, but that is especially true today when the readings speak to us of the endless mercy of our God.

Lord Jesus, you are God, limitless in mercy. Lord, have mercy
Lord Jesus, you were raised up on the cross for our salvation, Christ
have mercy
Lord Jesus, you have saved us by your grace. Lord have mercy

Opening Prayer

Let us pray

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever
All: Amen

***Reader: A reading from the second book of Chronicles
(2 Chr 36:14-16. 19-23)***

The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it.

The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, ‘Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.’

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: ‘Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, “The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.”’ The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

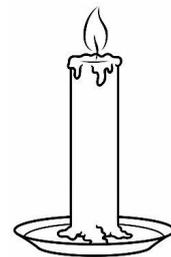
All:

By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung our harps.

For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
‘Sing to us,’ they said,
‘one of Zion’s songs.’

O how could we sing
the song of the Lord on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither!

O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys!



Reader: A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
(Eph 2:4-10)

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it

The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to John (Jh 3:14-21)

God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

‘The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were

evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.' The word of God

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Prayer of the Faithful

Presider: We ask the Father to share the fruits of the victory of his Son in our prayer

Reader:

We pray for the Pope: may he continue to guide us with courage and wisdom and his own inspiring example. Lord hear us

We pray for men and women who have drifted from Christ: may the image of Christ on the cross give them courage to return home. Lord hear us

We pray for ourselves: that we may be inspired by God's vision of us as "God's work of art". Lord hear us

We pray for all who suffer in body, mind or heart that they may experience the love and compassion of God. Lord hear us

We pray for those who have died and gone before us: that they will be raised up with Christ and given a place with him in heaven. Lord hear us

Parish Prayer

God, Creator and Life-giver we thank you for the gift of one another in our Parish of St Paul Apostle. Bless us and our families with the power of your Spirit. Inspired and motivated by St Paul's courage and commitment to the person of Christ, may we continue to be open to change and challenge! Make us passionate and courageous in our mission of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ

Presider:

God, we ask you to hear the prayers we offer in the power of your Holy Spirit, through the one whom you sent into the world to bring us salvation, you Son, Jesus Christ our Lord

All: Amen

Anima Christi Prayer (Spiritual Communion)

Soul of Christ, sanctify me; Body of Christ, save me;
Blood of Christ, inebriate me;
Water from the side of Christ, wash me;
Passion of Christ, strengthen me;
O good Jesus hear me; Within your wounds hide me;
From all harm protect me;
At the hour of my death, call me;
And close to you bid me; So that with your saints,
I may praise you forever and ever. Amen



Prayer after Communion

Let us pray

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

CONCLUSION

Presider:

Look upon those who call to you, O Lord, and sustain the weak; give life by your unfailing light to those who walk in the shadow of death, and bring those rescued by your mercy from every evil to reach the highest good. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

St Paul Apostle Catholic Community
Endeavour Hills VIC
Biblical translation: NRSV