

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT Year B

ENTRANCE HYMN

1. O cross erected above the world
Cross of our Saviour King! (*twice*)
Fount from which gushed the waters
Straight from the wound in His side
Filling our lives with His gift of grace
Cross of our Saviour King
2. O cross, Thou channel of grace divine
Cross of our Saviour King! (*twice*)
Tree on which death was conquered
Thou the first altar of love
Jesus, the Lamb gave His Life on thee,
Cross of our Saviour King!
3. O cross sublime and refulgent tree,
Cross of our Saviour King! (*twice*)
Jesus through thee has saved us,
Great was the price that He paid
Thou art the folly of love divine,
Cross of our Saviour King!

FIRST READING

A reading from the second book of Chronicles 36:14-16.19-23

The wrath and mercy of God are revealed in the exile and in the release 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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps136:1-6. R. v. 6

**R. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not!**

1. By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept, remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung up our harps. (R.)
2. 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.' (R.)

3. O how could we sing the song of the Lord
on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither!
(R.)
4. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter
of St. Paul to the Ephesians 2:4-10
You who were dead through your sins have been saved through grace.

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Jn 3:16

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 3:14-21
God send his Son so that through him the world might be saved.

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 Gospel of the Lord.

CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down

from heaven; (*All bow*) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERTORY HYMN (tune: O sacred Head)

1. O God, your people praise you,
obedient to your word,
by placing on your altar
this bread and wine, O Lord;
for all your loving kindness
our grateful hearts we raise;
but pardon first the blindness of all our sinful ways.
2. Though sinful, we implore you
to turn and make us live;
Your light shine on our blindness,
your grace and mercy give;
Hear now the prayers and voices
which from your people rise,
as your whole Church rejoices
in this great sacrifice.
3. Thou art our loving Father,
thou art our holiest Lord,
but we have sinned against thee
by thoughts and deed and word.
Before the court of heaven
we stand and humbly pray
our sins may be forgiven,
our faults be washed away.

COMMUNION HYMNS

1. I am the Light, bringing men out of darkness
so come, take my light to the world
I am the bread you must feed to the hungry
the wine that must fill every heart.
*Foxes have holes, birds have their nests
but the Son of man has no place to rest
Come, follow me be the light of the nations
leave your nets and come follow me*
 2. I am the light, that must change every life
and the way that must alter your ways
I am the truth and my word is the Cross
you must take if you want to be free.
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1. Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted!
 2. Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon
thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee!

'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;
I crucified thee.

3. Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
the slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered.
For our atonement, while we nothing heeded,
God interceded.
4. For me, kind Jesus, was thy incarnation,
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,
for my salvation.
5. Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay
thee,
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee,
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,
not my deserving.

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1. Glory be to Jesus, / who in bitter pains
poured for me the lifeblood / from his sacred
veins.
 2. Grace and life eternal/ in that blood I find;
blest be his compassion,/ infinitely kind.
 3. Blest through endless ages
be the precious stream
which from endless torment
did the world redeem.
 4. Here our weary spirits /drink of life our fill;
here, as in a fountain,
souls are cleansed from ill.
 5. Abel's blood for vengeance
pleaded to the skies,
but the blood of Jesus / for our pardon cries.
 6. Oft as it is sprinkled / On our guilty hearts,
Satan in confusion / Terror-struck departs.
 7. Oft as earth exulting / lifts its praise on high,
angel hosts rejoicing / make their glad reply.
 8. Lift we, then, our voices,
swell the mighty flood;
louder still and louder
praise the precious Blood!

RECESSIONAL (tune: *Forth in the peace*)

1. King of the martyrs' noble band,
crown of the true of every land,
strength of the pilgrim on the way,
beacon by night and cloud by day:
 2. Hear us as now we celebrate
faith undeterred by cruel hate;
hear and forgive us, sinners who
are burdened by the wrong we do.
 3. Dying, through you they overcame;
living, were faithful to your Name.
Turn our rebellious heart, and thus
win a like victory in us.
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1. Glory to the God the Father be;
Glory to Christ, who set us free;
and to the Spirit, living flame
Glory unceasing we proclaim.