



Hosanna



Vol. 3

SUNDAY LITURGY

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Year B

INTRODUCTION

We **Rejoice** today being **Laetare** Sunday for we have a God who is Love Himself. He spoke to us from the beginning of time. Out of the love He has for his people He sent us messengers and prophets. But human that we are, we failed to recognize Him. Finally He revealed the depth of his love for us by sending His only Son so that whoever believes in Him might be saved! Through this liturgy he invites us to walk as Children of the Light, so that we might be worthy to receive the salvation that Christ has won for us and have the gift of eternal life.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breasts. *(Isa 66:10-11)*

COLLECT

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 towards 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, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

The reading speaks about the misfortunes that God allowed upon Israel. God meant the tragedy to be a medicine to help them get cured of the disease of sin.

A reading from the Second Book of the Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

All the leading priests and the people likewise were exceedingly unfaithful, following all the abominations of the nations; and they polluted the house of the Lord, which he had hallowed in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place; but they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words, and scoffing at his prophets, till the wrath of the Lord rose against his people, till there was no remedy.

Their enemies burned the house of God, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem, and burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious vessels. He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept sabbath, to fulfil seventy years.

Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing: "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may the Lord his God be with him. Let him go up.'"

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 137

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

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

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./**

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

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

St Paul is emphasizing the gratuitousness of the gift of faith which the Ephesians converts have received. This gift which God gave them, even when they were sinners, had united them to Christ.

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 2:4-10

Brethren, God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead

through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God – not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

The Word of the Lord

ACCLAMATION (Jn 3:16)

God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son; everyone who believes in him has eternal life.

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. He who believes in him is not condemned; he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light,

lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does what is true comes to the light, that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been wrought in God.

"The Gospel of the Lord

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: Let us put forth our petitions to the Lord asking for the grace to be filled with God's love so that we may live as the Children of the Light as we say:

Lord, enkindle in us the fire of your love.

1. We pray for our Holy Father Pope Francis, our Archbishop Bernard Moras, all the Bishops, Priests and religious that they may continue to be messengers of God's love and mercy leading the faithful to accept and find joy and fulfillment in Christ our Saviour. Let us pray to the Lord:

'Lord, enkindle in us the fire of your love.'

2. We pray for ourselves, that as God continues to love us we may receive this love and live in the light of the Gospel especially encountering Jesus when we are confused and lost and looking for meaning in our world. Let us pray to the Lord:

'Lord, enkindle in us the fire of your love.'

3. We pray for our parish community that we may be channels of grace for one another sharing God's love and his bountiful blessings especially with the old, the sick, the poor and the needy reaching out to them in love and service. Let us pray to the Lord:

'Lord, enkindle in us the fire of your love.'

4. We pray for all the people in our world, especially those who are clouded with the darkness of evil and

sin. Reach out to them Lord in this time of confusion, crisis and chaos and help them to come to the Light of Truth. Let us pray to the Lord:

'Lord, enkindle in us the fire of your love.'

Pray for your personal intentions...

Celebrant: God of light and love, in you we live and move and have our being. Help us to walk as your loving children for in your light we see light and be filled with the fire of your love so that we may become worthy witnesses of the Gospel. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of all the world. Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE (Lent)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you have given your children a sacred time for the renewing and purifying of their hearts, that, freed from disordered affections, they may so deal with the things of this passing world as to hold rather to the things that eternally endure.

And so, with all the Angels and Saints, we praise you, as without end we acclaim:

All: Holy,

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord. (*cf. Ps 121:3-4*)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

REFLECTION

Life is full of paradoxes. We live in big houses but smaller families, we crave for more knowledge but lack wisdom, we have multiplied our possessions but lost the sense of values, we've reached the moon but don't know who lives next door, we have higher incomes but lower morals, we travel on 4 lane roads but are small minded, we have more conveniences but lack of time. We have learnt how to make a living but not to make a life. We have added years to life but not life to our years. Life is... full of paradoxes! We are running the rat race! Let's pause and look at God – the God of Love – 'G' and our 'race' will be filled with His 'Grace.' The unconditional, magnanimous and bountiful love of God is made visible and tangible in Jesus. Acknowledging Him as our Saviour, all sorrow will turn into Joy.

The central verse in the Gospel reading today is, (Jn 3:16) 'God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.' According to Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a French Jesuit Philosopher, the whole creation is marching towards an Omega Point

where the whole of humanity will be united to God, the God of love and will reach out to those in need by manifesting love for ones neighbour.

Humankind needs Christ and is incomplete without it. We all love Christ and want to bring Christ into our world because we know that without Him we cannot have happiness and peace. Even though the world does not know it, Christ is the one whom the world seeks.

There are people in the world who have chosen to alienate themselves from God's love. They have chosen darkness over light. However, a person who lives in truth and integrity is not afraid of the light for such a person is not afraid of anything, has nothing to hide or to be ashamed of.

Lent reminds us that we are to "deny ourselves, and take up our cross daily." And that means being Children of the Light, embracing the daily rigorous demands of Christian life if we choose to live it.

Let us look at Jesus lifted high up on the Cross for us. Let us see the love of God that is poured out to us there. Let us open our hearts to receive this love and let this love flow through us into the lives of others so that we may be the beacon of light in the lives of those who live in the darkness of ignorance and sin.

- Fr Ryan Savio Rodrigues, SJ

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