

Ash Wednesday Mass

26 February 2020

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Joel 2:12-18

A reading from the book of the prophet Joel

"Even now," says the Lord,
"return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
rend your hearts and not your clothing.

"Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing."

Who knows whether the Lord will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him:
a grain offering and a drink offering
to be presented to the Lord, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly; gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged;
gather the children, even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.
Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'"

Then the Lord became jealous for his land,
and had pity on his people.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 50:3-6, 12-14, 17

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.

In your compassion blot out my offence.

O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. R.

My offences truly I know them;

my sin is always before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned:

what is evil in your sight I have done. R.

A pure heart create for me, O God,

put a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence,

nor deprive me of your holy spirit. R.

Give me again the joy of your help;

with a spirit of fervour sustain me.

O Lord, open my lips

and my mouth shall declare your praise. R.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20 - 6:2

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

We are ambassadors for Christ,

since God is making his appeal through us;

we entreat you on behalf of Christ,

be reconciled to God.

For our sake God made Christ to be sin who knew no sin,
so that in Christ we might become the righteousness of God.
As we work together with him,
we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.
For the Lord says,
"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."
See, now is the acceptable time;
see, now is the day of salvation!
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Ps 95:7-8

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
If today you hear God's voice,
harden not your hearts.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew
Jesus said to the disciples,
"Beware of practising your piety before others
in order to be seen by them;
for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.
"So whenever you give alms,
do not sound a trumpet before you,
as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets,
so that they may be praised by others.
Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.
But when you give alms,
do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

so that your alms may be done in secret;
and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray,
do not be like the hypocrites;
for they love to stand and pray
in the synagogues and at the street corners,
so that they may be seen by others.
Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

But whenever you pray;
go into your room and shut the door
and pray to your Father who is in secret;
and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you fast,
do not look dismal, like the hypocrites
for they disfigure their faces
so as to show others that they are fasting.
Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.
But when you fast,
put oil on your head and wash your face,
so that your fasting may be seen not by others
but by your Father who is in secret;
and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.