

# Fourth Sunday of Lent B

14 March 2021

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### First Reading

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23 (Year B)

A reading from the second book of Chronicles

All the leading priests and the people were exceedingly unfaithful, following all the abominations of the nations; and they polluted the house of the Lord that he had consecrated in Jerusalem.

The Lord, the God of their ancestors, persistently sent his messengers to them, 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, until the wrath of the Lord against his people became so great that there was no remedy.

Therefore the Lord brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans, who burned the house of God, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious vessels.

The king 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 made up for its sabbaths.

All the days that it lay desolate it kept sabbath, to fulfil seventy years.

In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia, in fulfilment of the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, the Lord stirred up the spirit of King Cyrus of Persia

so that he sent a herald throughout all his kingdom  
and also declared in a written edict:

"Thus says King Cyrus 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.

Thanks be to God.

### **Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 136 (Year B)

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

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 my mouth  
if I remember you not,  
if I prize not Jerusalem  
above all my joys! R.

## **Second Reading**

Ephesians 2:4-10 (Year B)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

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-  
for it is by grace you have been saved.

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him  
in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,  
so that in the ages to come  
God might show the immeasurable riches of his grace  
in kindness toward 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.

This is not the result of works,  
so that no one may boast.

For we are what he has made us,  
created in Christ Jesus for good works,  
which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

John 3:16 (Year B)

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**

John 3:14-21 (Year B)

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

Mass 3, 4 and 5 Lent

"Just 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,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,  
but in order that the world might be saved through him.  
Those who believe in him are not condemned;  
but those who do not believe are condemned already,  
because they have not believed  
in the name of the only Son of God.

"And this is the judgment,  
that the light has come into the world,  
and people loved darkness rather than light  
because their deeds were evil.  
For all who do evil hate the light  
and do not come to the light,  
so that their deeds may not be exposed.  
But those who do what is true come to the light,  
so that it may be clearly seen  
that their deeds have been done in God."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.