

**1. Read (Seek)** — Read the verses slowly and prayerfully several times. Write down any words or phrases that seem to stand out:

**2. Meditate (Find)** — Now begin to reflect on the verses and ask God what it means and how he wants to speak to you through the passage. **God what are you saying to me through this?**

**3. Pray (Ask)** — Respond from your heart to what God has been saying to you. **What do you want me to know?** Write down your prayer to him or record whatever he says to you.

**4. Contemplate (Taste)** — Be quiet before the Lord enjoying His presence. **How is God calling you to act in response to what he has shown you?**

**SIGN UP free for  
Link to Liturgy**



[1] Cf. Navaree Bible. Pg. 166  
[2] Ignatius Catholic Study Bible, pg. 186  
[3] CCC 662  
[4] Cf. Navaree Bible. Pg. 166  
[5] CCC550  
[6] CCC 2853  
[7] Cf. Navaree Bible. Pg. 166  
[8] Cf. J. Escriva, Christ is passing by, 183

# Quick Connect

**What is the Gospel saying? John 12:20-33** — Pg. 1

**What is the Church saying Past and Present?** Pages 1-3

**What is God saying to you through this passage?** Page 4

## **Gospel Reading – John 12:20-33 – Roman Missal**

Some Greeks who had come to worship at the Passover Feast came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we would like to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me. “I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it and will glorify it again.” The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered and said, “This voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.” He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.

## **Spiritual Reading – Office of Readings**

From an Easter letter by Saint Athanasius, bishop

The Word who became all things for us is close to us, our Lord Jesus Christ who promises to remain with us always. He cries out, saying: *See, I am with you all the days of this age.* He is himself the shepherd, the high priest, the way and the door, and has become all things at once for us. In the same way, he has come among us as our feast and holy day as well. The blessed Apostle says of him who was awaited: *Christ has been sacrificed as our Passover.* It was Christ who shed his light on the psalmist as he prayed: *You are my joy, deliver me from those surrounding me.* True joy, genuine festival, means the casting out of wickedness. To achieve this one must live a life of perfect goodness and, in the serenity of the fear of God, practice contemplation in one’s heart. This was the way of the saints, who in their lifetime and at every stage of life rejoiced as at a feast. Blessed David, for example, not once but seven times rose at night to win God’s favor through prayer. The great Moses was full of joy as he sang God’s praises in hymns of victory for

the defeat of Pharaoh and the oppressors of the Hebrew people. Others had hearts filled always with gladness as they performed their sacred duty of worship, like the great Samuel and the blessed Elijah. Because of their holy lives they gained freedom, and now keep festival in heaven. They rejoice after their pilgrimage in shadows, and now distinguish the reality from the promise.

When we celebrate the feast in our own day, what path are we to take? As we draw near to this feast, who is to be our guide? Beloved, it must be none other than the one whom you will address with me as our Lord Jesus Christ. He says: *I am the way*. As blessed John tells us: it is Christ *who takes away the sin of the world*. It is he who purifies our souls, as the prophet Jeremiah says: *Stand upon the ways; look and see which is the good path, and you will find in it the way of amendment for your souls*. In former times the blood of goats and the ashes of a calf were sprinkled on those who were unclean, but they were able to purify only the body. Now through the grace of God's Word everyone is made abundantly clean. If we follow Christ closely we shall be allowed, even on this earth, to stand as it were on the threshold of the heavenly Jerusalem, and enjoy the contemplation of that everlasting feast, like the blessed apostles, who in following the Savior as their leader, showed, and still show, the way to obtain the same gift from God. They said: *See, we have left all things and followed you*. We too follow the Lord, and we keep his feast by deeds rather than by words.

#### **Old Ruler/New Ruler – Lesson and Discussion**

*"I will draw everyone to myself."*

Jesus says that the time has come for judgment and the ruler of the world. This judgment will be completed once He is raised and all will draw close to Him.

**What does Jesus mean by judgment on this world? I thought that has not happened yet?** Jesus judges souls. God judges all that was, is, and will ever be. So God has judged the souls in the past, the souls today, and those until He comes again when He will have the final judgment of everyone. "The world" means those who persist in serving the ruler of the world, Satan, rather than God.[1]

**Who is the ruler of this world?** Satan. "Satan, whose dominion over the world began with Adam's rebellion in the garden. Christ will defeat the devil when he mounts the Cross and will destroy him when he comes again in glory.[2]

**What does Jesus mean when He says that He will be lifted up from the earth?** The first and primary answer is the cross. It makes sense that this verse is included in the reading since the following week is Palm Sunday and Holy Week. Jesus also means His lifting up from the earth in the Ascension. "The lifting up of Jesus on the cross signifies and announces his lifting up by his Ascension into heaven, and indeed begins it." [3] From the cross, lifted up from the earth, the Lord attracts

all men to Himself for all will be able to see Him there crucified. "On being nailed to the Cross, Jesus is the supreme sign of contradiction for all men: those who recognize him as Son of God will be saved; those who reject him will be condemned." [4]

**What does Jesus' death signify?** First, it signifies the end of the rule of Satan in this world. "The coming of God's kingdom means the defeat of Satan...They [demons] anticipate Jesus' great victory over 'the ruler of this world.' The kingdom of God will be definitively established through Christ's cross: 'God reigned from the wood.'" [5] The Catechism continues this thought on the victory over Satan when it says, "Victory over the 'prince of this world' was won once for all at the Hour when Jesus freely gave himself up to death to give us his life. This is the judgment of this world, and the prince of this world is 'cast out.'" [6]

Jesus' death also signifies the establishment of God's eternal covenant. The first reading this Sunday is from Jeremiah where he prophesied that God would establish a new covenant that would be unlike any other covenant established before. This is because every covenant that God had established with His people was broken by mankind. (Cf. Jer. 31:31-34) God always keeps His promises. God must redeem the world because sin is still part of it and man has broken the covenant with Him. In order to fulfill His promise and prophecy, God sent His son to be the sacrifice for all of mankind. The Father sent His Son and established the eternal covenant through Him. Jeremiah speaks of not needing to be taught how to know the Lord because God came into this world. To know the Lord is to see Him face to face. This is why Jesus says "Have I been with you so long, and yet you do not know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father..." (Jn. 14:9)

Finally, Jesus' death shows that if we are to follow Him as the new ruler of this world, we must be willing to follow in His own footsteps, even if that means to the cross. "Every Christian, following Christ, has to be a flag raised aloft, a light on a lampstand – through prayer and mortification, securely attached to the Cross, always and in every situation, a sign to men of the saving love of God the Father." [7] When we put Jesus at the center of our lives, in all of our activities, at every moment, He will draw us to Him and we help make His kingdom a reality. [8]