THE CARPENTER

MARCH 29, 2020
5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

“I am the Resurrection and the Life;” God’s glory shines through the actions of Jesus...

“Lazarus, Come Out!”

“Untie him and let him go!”

OUR VISION
Through our Baptism and Eucharist, we are called to love as Christ loves and serve as Christ serves.

OUR MISSION
In Jesus Christ, we will grow and flourish through:
• Engaging, welcoming and building community
• Lifelong faith formation
• Social justice and service to others in need
• Engaging and understanding the energy and interests of our youth
• Prayer and worship that deepens our spiritual life
• Accountability in using our resources wisely
SO THAT WE MAY LIVE LIFE ABUNDANTLY!

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH—LIBERTYVILLE, ILLINOIS
WWW.STJOSEPH-LIBERTYVILLE.ORG
My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I write this letter on the first full day of the statewide mandate to stay home, coincidentally it is the Fourth Sunday of Lent known as Gaudete Sunday when the priest wears rose vestments symbolizing encouragement and hope. In the gospel, John 9:1-41, Jesus seeks out a blind man to heal him and restore his sight. The blind man symbolizes the community of disciples who were blinded by the darkness of fear and becoming increasingly isolated from each other.

The miracle of bringing the blind man from darkness to light is recounted in the first two verses of the passage. The consequences of the healing, taking up the next thirty-three passages, involve many different people: the neighbors, Pharisees, the blind man’s parents, and Jesus himself.

This story is essentially about the nature of God and the identity of Jesus as the Son of Man. Thus, it is fitting that Jesus heals the blind man on the Sabbath because he is bringing creation to completion. Using the symbols of clay and spittle, Jesus gives his innermost reality to the blind man. In restoring his sight, he is beginning the process of revealing his spiritual identity as God’s beloved child, called to walk through this life in belovedness rather than in fear and isolation.

In any situation in which one is seeking liberation from oppression, inevitably there will be opposition. Typically, oppressive forces work to amplify the fears of those seeking liberation, enhancing their sense of isolation by making it unique to them. In the blind man’s example, the opposition is symbolized in the indifference of the neighbors and the open hostility from the Pharisees.

Also caught up in this situation are the blind man’s parents representing those who know Jesus but are afraid to confess him. This is quite understandable in a threatening environment; however, their position reflects a great need for their awareness of God’s love and mercy not to be just an idea but to be an intimate experience of personal love that permeates every dimension of their lives.

The healing of the blind man was a pure, loving, unsolicited gift of God. The God we worship does not let go of us, even when we stray. God, the “Hound of Heaven,” constantly seeks our liberation from darkness to light. The blind man did not immediately see the light. It was a process to realize that it was not just a man called Jesus or a prophet that opened his eyes, but the Son of Man. When the change of consciousness comes upon him, he then becomes a disciple of Jesus, ready to bear witness even in the face of hostility.

When threatened it is understandable to feel vulnerable and anxious. Yet, it is crucial that as we take the necessary steps to “flatten the curve” of coronavirus outbreak and end its transmission, we do not journey through this alone. Fear must not isolate us from a loving, forgiving God or from each other. I encourage you to see this time as an opportunity for prayer that enables the Lord to deepen your sense of His love, mercy and forgiveness. Also, accept the invitation to discipleship, just like the blind man did, and allow Jesus to become your Lord and your God. Discipleship will manifest the same desire to liberate God’s children from fear and isolation that Jesus had. Reach out to the elderly or to those living alone to be their source of liberation as was Jesus to the blind man. Such “little acts of kindness,” as St. Thérèse of Lisieux liked to describe unsolicited help, will nurture hope in our homes and hearts.

In gratitude,

Fr. John Trout
Cancellation of Private Prayer Hours in Church

Based on Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker’s “stay at home” order for the entire state that started last Saturday at 5:00 p.m. through April 7, St. Joseph Catholic Church is now closed to private prayer until further notice. And as noted last week, the following will not be held until further notice: Weekday Masses, Weekend Masses, Baptism, Confirmation, Saturday Reconciliation, Stations of the Cross, Eucharistic Adoration/Holy Hour and all meetings and parish events.

Live-streaming Masses

As announced by the Archdiocese, all Masses including Holy Week, Triduum and Easter Vigil and Easter Day are cancelled until further notice. Holy Name Cathedral and our parish will be live-streaming these services. According to the Archdiocese, no palms will be distributed for Palm Sunday; however, if a priest blesses palms privately, those palms may be reserved for distribution at a later date. There will also be no communion services, and holy oils will not be distributed.

Please note the changes to our live-streaming schedule. As started on Monday, March 23, our live-streamed weekday Masses will move from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. We are also live-streaming the Saturday 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass and the Sunday 9:00 a.m. Mass. Tune in live or you can watch later. All of the Masses will be in our archived section after they have been broadcast. Watch here: www.stjoseph-libertyville.org/live.

It is important that the parish be able to continue its vital work during this crisis

We encourage you to continue your important support through your generous giving. Please sign up for online giving at www.stjoseph-libertyville.org/give. Or use your smart phone to text a gift to the parish by following the instructions on the next page. You are also welcome to mail or drop off your weekly envelope at the mail slot at the Parish Office.

The Parish Office will be closed until further notice

Please contact staff or clergy through email only, as phone coverage will not be available. A listing of email addresses can be found at www.stjoseph-libertyville.org/staff.

We will continue to monitor this fluid situation and we will share new or additional guidelines as we receive them. Our website and social media accounts will also be updated. This is a challenging time for all of us. We ask for your patience, understanding and prayers.

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich asks parishes to ring bells five times a day as a common call to prayer for groups affected by the COVID-19 pandemic beginning March 21, 2020

Cardinal Blase Cupich, archbishop of Chicago, asked Catholic parishes to ring their church bells five times a day, as a means of calling all to unite in prayer during the COVID-19 pandemic. The prayer times began at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 21, and continue every three hours each day, with the last bells rung at 9 p.m. Each of the five prayer times will be dedicated to a specific group particularly affected by the pandemic. If a parish does not have bells, parishioners are encouraged to set their alarms to remind them to stop for a moment and unite in prayer.

The archdiocese will provide short prayer intentions on its website and social media pages in three languages—English, Spanish and Polish—with a special intention of the day announced at the daily Mass aired on the archdiocesan website and on its Twitter account. For more information, please visit www.archchicago.org.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

The basic elements of an Act of Spiritual Communion are an Act of Faith, an Act of Love, a desire to receive Christ, and an invitation to Him to come into your heart.

On March 21, Cardinal Cupich suggested two prayers for those on the front lines—

Prayer for first responders and essential workers

Lord, we pray for those who run to danger to keep us safe and those who serve the common good. Embrace them with your mantle of protection and comfort the fears of their families. We ask this in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Prayer for health care workers and those attending to the sick

Lord, we are ennobled by those who put their lives at risk in caring for the sick. Keep them safe and embolden them when they are weary. We ask this in Jesus’ Name. Amen.
OPTIONS TO GIVE
Many of you give from the pews on Sunday and might be wondering how you can still support St. Joseph Catholic Church during this time of uncertainty. Last fall, when our collections were down, we asked you to increase your donations and you generously responded. We need your help, now more than ever, as the coronavirus is impacting our collections.

Here are three easy ways for you to give and continue to support St. Joseph Catholic Church:

Text To Give
Text To Give can be done right from your phone. Simply Text “Joseph” to 73256 and enter your weekly or monthly gift amount; or give a little extra this time.

Give Online
You can give online through our website. Visit www.stjoseph-libertyville.org/give.

Mail or Drop Off
Mail or drop off your donation in the mail slot at the parish office: 121 E. Maple Avenue, Libertyville, IL 60048.

Thank you! This is a challenging time for all of us and we thank you for your continued support!

“I GAVE TODAY” #StJoesGiving
Encourage others to give and share on your social media accounts that you supported St. Joseph Catholic Church with a simple “I GAVE TODAY” post using the hashtag #StJoesGiving.

Stay Healthy And Pray!

LENTEN ALMSGIVING PROJECT: CHANGE IN DROP OFF INSTRUCTIONS!
Your gifts for the Lenten Almsgiving Project may be dropped off at the Parish Food Pantry ONLY during its open hours (11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays at the Formation Center on Milwaukee Avenue) OR keep them at your home until parish operations return to normal. Arrangements will be made at a later date for the various charities and agencies to pick up the donations. Please contact Mary Causey at mcausey@stjoseph-libertyville.org if you have questions. Thank you for your generosity.

PRAYER & WORSHIP

Mass Intentions
There will be a live-streamed Mass Monday through Saturday at 8:30 a.m. available to view at www.stjoseph-libertyville.org/live. Parishioners are NOT to come to these Masses in Church.

The following intentions will be prayed for at the live-streamed daily Masses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>March 30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ann C. Finnestad</td>
<td>Lauretta &amp; Bernice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederick</td>
<td>Helene Kanaby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Lu Davis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>March 31</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bob &amp; Jean Mitchell</td>
<td>The Calzvara Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fr. Edward Hussli</td>
<td>Margaret McCraken</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>April 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mary Joan Beitzel</td>
<td>Greg Matias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Eigner</td>
<td>Frank Kapple</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>April 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wesley Fout</td>
<td>Helen Heffern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Vocations in Memory of Fr. Ronald Anglim</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Sesterhenn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>April 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Russert</td>
<td>Mary T. Jordan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Davis</td>
<td>Mary Jordan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>April 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edward Krol</td>
<td>Joe &amp; Janet Higgins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Palm Sunday</th>
<th>April 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All parishioners</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Pope’s Tweet of the Week
Today we remember the families who cannot leave their homes: may they know how to find a way of communicating well, and conquer the anguish of this moment together.
Let us #PrayTogether for peace in families today during this crisis, and for creativity. @Pontifex

Presiders/Deacons
During this time, these two Masses will be live-streamed and available to view at www.stjoseph-libertyville.org/live. Parishioners are NOT to come to either of these Masses in Church.

Saturday, April 4
5:00 p.m. Fr. Trout
Sunday, April 5
9:00 Fr. Ortiz
Worship Aids for Your Use at Home
You may download/print a PDF of each weekend Mass worship aid by going to www.stjoseph-libertyville.org/live. We hope this will be a help for you as you watch our live-streamed liturgies—5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, and 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday.

Prayer & Worship

Please Pray for the Sick
Those affected by COVID-19
Diego Anez
Donna Wantrobski
Marion O’Neill
Maria Coton
Janice Kleinschmidt
Michelle Lucas Freer
Mary Pikula

Dolores Schultz
Connor Boyle
Fr. John Hennessy
Alejandro Benavides
Fernando Benavides
Peter Krol
Stan Szot
Rita Gagliano

David Guimond
Carol Michalski
Terry Venchus
Joseph Locascio
B. J. Carroll
Sean Kolber
Micah Peckels Quirk

During these weeks of church and office closings, we will be keeping the sick on our prayer list.
Once things return to normal, please notify us if your loved one remains in need of our prayers.

Worship Aids for Your Use at Home

Faith Formation

Families, First Communicants in Banner-Building Mode
Children’s Faith Formation families are finding activities and ways to keep Christ at the center of their lives, even while having to stay at home. For example, parent Chad Cesarone and his second-grader worked on their family’s First Eucharist banner kit at home, looking forward to the Mass when his child will receive Jesus in the consecrated bread for the first time.

Others are working on their Gospel Weekly lessons, which they can do online, complete with the children and parents guides to work together.

Have a photo of your family sharing your faith together? Send it, along with a brief caption, to dretseck@stjoseph-libertyville.org.

Here are some photos of First Communion banners made last year.

Staying indoors? Grow in your faith together!

Check out FORMED.org

St. Joseph Catholic Church has given you unlimited access to plenty of formation for every age group: eBooks, Movies, Talks, Individual and group faith studies, Kids’ videos and more!

The subscription is paid for! You just need to sign up!

• Register at FORMED.org
• Select “I belong to a Parish or Organization” and enter St. Joseph’s name
• Create an account and start using it

Visit www.stjoseph-libertyville.org/formed.org for more information
Dear Catholic Charities Volunteers,

As I am sure you are well aware, Catholic Charities’ mission is founded upon helping those in need by coming together to serve and support individuals, families and communities. The ongoing pandemic and the fallout created by these times has created significant challenges for most of us, but for many of our clients, it has created unimaginable hardship with securing even the most basic needs.

Catholic Charities is being called upon more than ever to help meet these needs. We are seeing an unprecedented increase in the need for food at our food pantries due to the economic impact related to the pandemic.

We are, in turn, calling upon our staff and volunteers to help the agency meet these increasing needs. We are asking for assistance in sorting and bagging food at our pantries and curbside delivery of the food. There will be limited to no client contact involved and precautions have been implemented in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance to ensure that the health and safety of our clients, staff and volunteers remains a high priority. We have increased the frequency and intensity of all cleaning and disinfecting protocols, have adjusted hours of operation and schedules, implemented social distancing protocols and will provide gloves and access to hand washing.

Although we greatly appreciate your willingness to help in this time of need, we ask that anyone in a high-risk category as defined by the CDC, including those over 60 and anyone with an underlying health condition remain home. Additionally, anyone with any symptoms of COVID-19 or who has had contact with a person with symptoms, anyone confirmed to have COVID-19 or who has had contact with another person confirmed to have COVID-19 or anyone who has traveled to a high-risk country recently will not be able to volunteer following the guidance of the CDC. For those who cannot volunteer, we ask for your prayers for our clients and staff. In the coming weeks and months, we welcome you back to your volunteer roles with arms wide open.

If you determine that you would like to volunteer or consider volunteering, please reach out to Andrew McKernin (312-513-4711 or amckernin@catholiccharities.net) as soon as possible for additional information, as the need is immediate. Times, shifts, days, and locations vary and we will work with you to find the best fit. We cannot thank you enough for your consideration at this great time of need.

www.catholiccharities.net/donate

---

**St. Joseph Employment Ministry to Meet Virtually on April 1**

*Please note: Due to the COVID-19 situation, we have suspended our face-to-face meetings until further notice. HOWEVER, we are excited to announce that Bruce Bennett, who has presented at our meetings several times in the past, has generously offered to host our first on-line webinar focused on mastering your next interview. Bruce’s first session will be on Wednesday, April 1:*

**Interviewing Skills - Guide for a Winning Interview** is an in-depth review of the interview process. Preparation is a key element to acing an interview. **Bruce Bennett**, career coach and public speaker, will present the best approaches, from your initial phone screen to the face-to-face meeting with the hiring manager. Bruce will share winning answers to several standard interview questions, including the dreaded “Tell Me about Yourself”.

Here’s the link to our free on-line live meeting: “Guide for a Winning Interview”

When: April 1, 7:00 p.m. Central Daylight Time

Join Zoom Meeting - https://zoom.us/j/943549040

(HINT: Click on the link a few minutes early to give you time to download and install the Zoom application) Meeting ID: 943 549 040

Use your computer audio or dial in 312-626 6799 (Chicago). Please join us for our first on-line session! The St. Joseph Employment Ministry assists the unemployed and under-employed in the pursuit of fulfilling employment opportunities. Meetings are usually held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month and feature topical presentations. If you have questions, contact John Jennings at jjennings@comcast.net. Employers are invited to post open positions with by sending an email to John.
Parish Food Pantry Is Still Open

The food pantry is open the regular hours of Monday and Thursday, 11:00-1:00 p.m. The pantry is located at the front entrance at the Formation Center, on Milwaukee Avenue, north of Route 176 and south of Hurlburt Street. Families may enter one at a time, and at this time we are not checking I.D.'s. If you have any questions, please email Mary Causey at mcausey@stjoseph-libertyville.org. During these hours, St. Joseph parishioners may also drop off their Lenten Almsgiving gifts, but this is not necessary. See page 4 for more information on Lenten Almsgiving gifts.

Accountability

St. Joseph Parish
131 S. Maple
LIBERTVILLE, IL

SUBJECT: WEEKLY ENVELOPE CONTRIBUTIONS

March 16, 2020

Thank you for taking the time to share such a kind note and to give. #StJoesGiving

Psalm 91

Safe in God’s Sheltering Care

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: “My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!”

It is he who will free you from the snare of the fowler who seeks to destroy you; he will conceal you with his pinions and under his wings you will find refuge.

You will not fear the terror of the night nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the plague that prowls in the darkness nor the scourge that lays waste at noon. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand fall at your right, you, it will never approach; his faithfulness is buckler and shield.

Your eyes have only to look to see how the wicked are repaid, you who have said: “Lord, my refuge!” and have made the Most High your dwelling.

Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach where you dwell. For you has he commanded his angels, to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you upon their hands lest you strike your foot against a stone. On the lion and the viper you will tread and trample the young lion and the dragon.

Since he clings to me in love, I will free him; protect him for he knows my name. When he calls I shall answer: “I am with you,” I will save him in distress and give him glory.

With length of life I will content him. I shall let him see my saving power.
ACCOUNTABILITY

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Weekly Offering for March 8, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Year</th>
<th>Last Year</th>
<th>Over (Under) Last Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Week Year to Date</td>
<td>Week Year to Date</td>
<td>Week Year-to-Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekend Offering</td>
<td>$25,261</td>
<td>$21,939</td>
<td>$3,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$1,005,617</td>
<td>$944,799</td>
<td>$60,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Giving</td>
<td>$9,139</td>
<td>$5,532</td>
<td>$3,606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$545,715</td>
<td>$564,260</td>
<td>(18,545)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Collection</td>
<td>$34,399</td>
<td>$27,471</td>
<td>$6,928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$1,551,332</td>
<td>$1,509,059</td>
<td>$42,273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget for Collection</td>
<td>$42,230</td>
<td>$1,562,510</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference</td>
<td>$(7,831)</td>
<td>$(11,178)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank You! St. Joseph Parish is grateful to those who give generously on the weekends and monthly through our automatic contribution program. Thank you to those who regularly and generously give of their treasure as well as those who give of their time and talent to support the work our parish does in the name of Jesus Christ. Learn more at www.stjoseph-libertyville.org.

THOUGHTS ON GIVING

“Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?’ (John 11:40)

Many of us say that we believe in God. We go to church on Sunday. We volunteer for events at our parish. But when life gets hard and the pressure is on, do we really believe and put our trust in the Lord? When we live a life of gratitude, being thankful for the gifts we have been given, we really do see that God is providing all that we need. It opens our hearts to see God's active presence in our daily lives.

Reflection

This year our Lenten journey draws to a close in a very dramatic way as we approach Holy Week. Our Palm Sunday readings present us with Jesus’ triumphant arrival in Jerusalem and His tragic journey to death on the cross. In the beginning we see the people celebrating the fulfilment of their desire for a king to finally lead them out of their oppression by the Romans. We can imagine their great joy believing that the Messiah was in their presence. Contrast that with where we find many of those same people as the week draws to a close. We find many fleeing Jerusalem and hiding out after the crucifixion. Their hopes and joy have been replaced with fear and doubt. Perhaps, even as people of faith, this year we may already be finding ourselves with fear and doubt creeping into our lives. Let us challenge ourselves to remember that the hope and joy of the Resurrection is always close at hand. If we find ourselves being dragged into fear and doubt, let us take heart knowing that God's desire for us is always joy, hope and peace. Even in the darkest days, we can know and live the triumph of faith.

For further reflection on Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem and on Palm Sunday, see The Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraphs 557-560, 569-570; and on the Eucharist as Sacrifice, paragraphs 1362-1372.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. This Lent we are being challenged by a disruption to our desires for the joy of Easter. It surely isn't going as we had hoped and planned. Even though I may not have the grace of the Mass available for the rest of Lent, what might I do to seek out and find other ways to bring God's grace into my soul? Where can I find joy? What are my new hopes?
2. The Church recognizes that partaking in the celebration of the Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic faith. Now that the Eucharist may not be available to me, what am I coming to understand about the special gift of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist and in my life?
3. We are challenged to draw closer to Him during Lent through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. How have I done in each of these areas? How can I reach out to help others who are being spiritually and economically challenged to feel Christ's living presence in their lives in these difficult times?
Office Hours & Evening Access The Parish Office and Ministry Center at 121 E. Maple Avenue is open 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8:00 a.m.-Noon on Saturday. The front door of the P.O.M. Center has a keypad for entry into its vestibule area. Anyone hosting a scheduled meeting in the evening or on a weekend is asked to pick up the key for the space they need before 4:30 p.m. (Mon.-Fri.) or by 12:00 Noon on Saturday (for weekend meetings) if you cannot make it by 4:30 (M-F) or by Noon Saturday, please call the office, 847-362-2073, before 4:30 (M-F) or Noon Saturday to reserve your key and to get the access code for the vestibule, where the key will be kept. You must return the key immediately after your event by putting it in the same box you obtained it from, NOT in the slot to the left of the door.
BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

A JOURNEY TO DISCIPLESHIP—JESUS COMPANIONS US THROUGH SCRIPTURE

1. Proclaim God’s Word. Choose someone to read the Scripture. After reading, there is silence from the group in reverence.
2. Invite Response. Invite individuals to respond to a word, phrase or passage that strikes them in some way.
3. Praise God. After a period of response, close by leading the group in praise of God by praying together the Glory Be.

NEXT SUNDAY’S GOSPEL — Matthew 27: 11-54 (short version)

Leader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus stood before the governor, Pontius Pilate, who questioned him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” And when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no answer. Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many things they are testifying against you?” But he did not answer him one word, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now on the occasion of the feast the governor was accustomed to release to the crowd one prisoner whom they wished. And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had assembled, Pilate said to them, “Which one do you want me to release to you, Barabbas, or Jesus called Christ?” For he knew that it was out of envy that they had answered, “Barabbas!” Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus called Christ?” They all said, “Let him be crucified, for he is the king of Israel!” Likewise the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him and said, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. So he is the king of Israel! Let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now if he wants him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” The revolutionaries were crucified with him also kept abusing him in the same way.

From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o’clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Some of the bystanders who heard it said, “This one is calling for Elijah.” Immediately one of them ran to get a sponge; he soaked it in wine, and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. But the rest said, “Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save him.” But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit. Here all kneel and pause for a short time.

And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many. The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said, “Truly, this was the Son of God!” The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Response: Glory to You, O Lord

And when they came to a place called Golgotha — which means Place of the Skull — they gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall. But when he had tasted it, he refused to drink. After they had crucified him, they divided his garments by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And they placed over his head the written charge against him: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews. Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and the other on his left. Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, if you are the Son of God, and come down from the cross!” Likewise the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him and said, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. So he is the king of Israel! Let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now if he wants him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” The revolutionaries were crucified with him also kept abusing him in the same way.

From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o’clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Some of the bystanders who heard it said, “This one is calling for Elijah.” Immediately one of them ran to get a sponge; he soaked it in wine, and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. But the rest said, ‘Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save him.” But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit. Here all kneel and pause for a short time.

And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many. The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said, “Truly, this was the Son of God!” The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE GOSPEL REFLECTION IS ON PAGE 8

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

| Tuesday | Nim 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30 |
| Wednesday | Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42 |
| Thursday | Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59 |
| Friday | Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42 |
| Saturday | Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56 |
| Sunday | Mt 21:1-11 (procession); Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11-54] |

Glory to You, O Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.