

Lent Tuesday Week 3 Year A. Feast of St. Patrick

First Reading: Dan 3: 25, 34-43;

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 25: 4-5b, 6, 7bc, 8-9;

Gospel Reading: Mt 18: 21-35.

Theme: Forgive from the Heart

The first reading contains the most beautiful and sincere prayers in the Bible. (This prayer is quoted in the offertory prayer of every Mass.) It is the prayer of Shadrach, Meschach, and Abednego who were thrown into a burning furnace. These three young men begged to be treated with mercy and forgiveness.

Our readiness to forgive should be without limit because that is the way God acts towards us. To illustrate His teaching Jesus told the parable of the unforgiving servant. The unforgiving servant did not allow mercy to soften his heart. The story of unforgiving servant challenges us to be forgiving as God forgives us. The experience of being forgiven should move us to forgive.

If we are not compassionate, forgiving, and merciful, we may find it difficult to pray for God's mercy. Every time we say the Lord's Prayer we commit ourselves to this: "Forgive us our sins JUST AS we forgive those who sin against us." God invites us to be more open to His love so that we can ALWAYS give it to others; to be receptive of his mercy so that we can show mercy. May the merciful Lord change our hearts in this holy season of Lent. Holy St. Patrick, pray for us!

Fr. Sev Kupo