

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

## Prayers and Readings

### Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

### First Reading

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23

"I In those days, all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations and polluting the LORD's temple which he had consecrated in Jerusalem.

Early and often did the LORD, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people and his dwelling place.

But they mocked the messengers of God, despised his warnings, and scoffed at his prophets, until the anger of the LORD against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy. Their enemies burnt the house of God, tore down the walls of Jerusalem, set all its palaces afire, and destroyed all its precious objects. Those who escaped the sword were carried captive to Babylon, where they became servants of the king of the Chaldeans and his sons until the kingdom of the Persians came to power. All this was to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah:

"Until the land has retrieved its lost sabbaths, during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest while seventy years are fulfilled."

In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD inspired King Cyrus of Persia to issue this proclamation throughout his kingdom, both by word of mouth and in writing:

"Thus says Cyrus, king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD, the God of heaven, has given to me, and he has also charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever, therefore, among you belongs to any part of his people, let him go up, and may his God be with him!"

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11

**Response:** Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

### Second Reading

Eph 2:4-10

Brothers and sisters:

God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ — by grace you have been saved —, raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast.

For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.

### Gospel

Jn 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who 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 might not perish but might have eternal life.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil.

For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

### Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died and was buried;

He descended into hell;

On the third day he rose again from the dead;

He ascended into heaven,

And is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

### Communion Antiphon

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.

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## Music

### ENTRANCE SONG

#### Christ Before Us

1. Christ before us, Christ beside us,  
Christ to guide us all our days.  
He to carry all our sorrows,  
he to bear us perfect grace.  
Jesus, Savior, Friend and Brother,  
Intercessor, Son of God,  
save your people in your dying,  
and in rising, conquer death.

2. May we be for one another  
all that you would have us be.  
May we live your law of kindness,  
love, compassion, charity.  
May we climb your holy mountain;  
may we see your holy face!  
Visit now this humble dwelling;  
dwell within this holy place.

### OFFERTORY SONG

#### O God, You Search Me

1. O God, you search me and you know me.  
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.  
When I walk or lie down you are before me:  
Ever the maker and keeper of my days.

2. You know my resting and my rising.  
You discern my purpose from afar,  
And with love everlasting you besiege me:  
In ev'ry moment of life or death, you are.

### COMMUNION SONGS

#### Holy Darkness

**Refrain:** Holy darkness, blessed night,  
heaven's answer hidden from our sight.  
As we await you, O God of silence, we embrace your holy night.

1. I have tried you in fires of affliction;  
I have taught your soul to grieve.  
In the barren soil of your loneliness, there I will plant my seed.

2. I have taught you the price of compassion;  
you have stood before the grave.  
Though my love can seem like a raging storm,  
this is the love that saves.

3. Were you there when I raised up the mountains?  
Can you guide the morning star?  
Does the hawk take flight when you give command?  
Why do you doubt my pow'r?

4. In your deepest hour of darkness I will give you wealth untold.  
When the silence stills your spirit, will my riches fill your soul.

5. As the watchman waits for morning,  
and the bride awaits her groom,  
so we wait to hear your footsteps as we rest beneath your moon.

#### Parce Domine / in Me

**Refrain:** Spare your people, Lord,  
spare your people in your loving kindness!  
Show us your mercy; we have sinned against you, Lord.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your goodness;  
In your abundant compassion blot out my offense.  
Wash away all my guilt; From my sin cleanse me.

2. For I know my offense;  
My sin is always before me.  
Against you alone have I sinned; I have done such evil in your sight.

3. A clean heart create for me, God;  
Renew in me a steadfast spirit.  
Do not drive me away from your presence  
Nor take from me your Holy Spirit.

### CLOSING SONG

#### Be Thou My Vision

1. Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art:  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

2. Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord:  
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son,  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

3. Riches I heed not, or man's empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.



### PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted His only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.

Obtain for us grace, mercy,  
and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.