

Wednesday in Holy Week

8 April 2020

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Phil 2:10, 8, 11

At the name of Jesus, every knee should bend,
of those in heaven and on the earth and under the earth,
for the Lord became obedient to death, death on a cross:
therefore Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Greeting

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Penitential Act

Let us acknowledge our sins,
and so prepare to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

A brief pause for silence follows.

Lord Jesus, you raise the dead to life in the Spirit:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you bring pardon and peace to the sinner:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you bring light to those in darkness:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Collect

Let us pray.

O God, who willed your Son to submit for our sake
to the yoke of the Cross,
so that you might drive from us the power of the enemy,
grant us, your servants, to attain the grace of the resurrection.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 50.4-9a

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord GOD has given me
a well-trained tongue,
That I might know how to speak to the weary
a word that will rouse them.

Morning after morning
he opens my ear that I may hear;
And I have not rebelled,
have not turned back.

I gave my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who plucked my beard;
My face I did not shield
from buffets and spitting.

The Lord GOD is my help,
therefore I am not disgraced;
I have set my face like flint,
knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

He is near who upholds my right;
if anyone wishes to oppose me,
let us appear together.

Who disputes my right?
Let him confront me.

See, the Lord GOD is my help;
who will prove me wrong?

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34

℟. Lord, in your great love, answer me.

For your sake I bear insult,
and shame covers my face.
I have become an outcast to my brothers,
a stranger to my mother's sons,
because zeal for your house consumes me,
and the insults of those who blaspheme you fall upon me. **℟.**

Insult has broken my heart, and I am weak,
I looked for sympathy, but there was none;
for consolers, not one could I find.
Rather they put gall in my food,
and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. **℟.**

I will praise the name of God in song,
and I will glorify him with thanksgiving:
“See, you lowly ones, and be glad;
you who seek God, may your hearts revive!
For the LORD hears the poor,
and his own who are in bonds he spurns not.” **R.**

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Hail to you, our King!
You alone have had compassion on our sins.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Matthew 26.14-25

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

✠ Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

One of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver, and from that time on he looked for an opportunity to hand him over.

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples approached Jesus and said, “Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?” He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The teacher says, “My appointed time draws near; in your house I shall celebrate the Passover with my disciples.”’” The disciples then did as Jesus had ordered, and prepared the Passover.

When it was evening, he reclined at table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said, “Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” Deeply distressed at this, they began to say to him one after another, “Surely it is not I, Lord?” He said in reply, “He who has dipped his hand into the dish with me is the one who will betray me. The Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that man if he had never been born.” Then Judas, his betrayer, said in reply, “Surely it is not I, Rabbi?” He answered, “You have said so.”

For the Gospel of the Lord,
praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A pause for reflection follows.

In the Gospel today Judas seizes an opportunity to betray Jesus. We can easily understand Judas' actions here. We, too, can be willing to seize opportunities to get what we want, especially if other means of achieving this have been scarce. Possibly what we want seems impossible to achieve by legitimate means, too. Short cuts, social advantage, and unscrupulous values – all can be used very unfairly.

Looking at it from the Jewish authorities' point of view they had been anxious to silence Jesus and here Judas presented them with an immanent means of success. Judas offered them a way and the authorities seized it.

In our experience the seizure of opportunities belong to at least three different scenarios: personal ambition, the demands of poverty and the problem of human weakness in human relations. Opportunities to gain some advantage in all three occasionally arise and we are strongly tempted to seize them.

People who suffer from “vaulting ambition” are inclined to exploit opportunities ruthlessly and selfishly – often at the expense of others. This can be a feature of business practice, especially in the absence of regulation. Not all businesses run along this line, fortunately.

People who live in poverty and without any benefit of regular help can easily and understandably depend on the practice of exploiting or robbing others. In this instance, who is ultimately responsible for the crimes committed? Is it the poverty stricken person or the society which tolerates poverty?

If we in our weakness manipulate, betray or fail to support another person we know that the responsibility lies with us and our disabling weakness.

Was Judas unduly ambitious, poverty stricken, or weak? In a way it does not really matter. It is us who need to reflect on how we behave in various circumstances and with other people.

[Music for Meditation – Jesus, lover of my soul
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFaiiPv-Q6I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFaiiPv-Q6I)

Prayers of the People

Pray for the world and for the church.

Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ.

God's Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

When all is prepared, the Priest says,

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God, the Father almighty.

**May the Lord accept our sacrifice
for the praise and glory of God's name,
for our good, and the good of all God's holy Church.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, O Lord, we pray, the offerings made here,
and graciously grant
that celebrating your Son's Passion in mystery,
we may experience the grace of its effects.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give him thanks and praise

We give you thanks and praise, almighty God,
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ,
our Saviour and Redeemer.

He is your living Word,
through whom you have created all things.

You sent him from heaven to take our flesh:
born of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
he was revealed as your Son.

He lived and died as one of us,
to reconcile us to you,
the God and Father of all.

In fulfilment of your will
he stretched out his hands in suffering,
to bring release to those who place their hope in you;
and so he won for you a holy people.

He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows,
and to give up his life on the cross,
that he might break the chains of evil and death,
and banish the darkness of sin and despair.

By his resurrection
he brings us into the light of your presence.

Now with all creation we raise our voices
to proclaim the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy and gracious God,
accept our sacrifice of praise,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ;
who on the night he was handed over
to suffering and death,
took bread and gave you thanks,
saying to his disciples, 'Take, and eat:
this is my body which will be given for you.'

In the same way he took the cup,
saying, 'This is my blood which will be shed for you.
When you do this, you do it in memory of me.'

In remembrance of his death and resurrection,
with this bread and this cup,
we give you thanks that you have counted us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send your Holy Spirit
upon the celebration of your Church:
gather into one all who share in these holy mysteries,
filling them with your Spirit
and confirming them in the truth,
that together we may praise you and give you glory
through Jesus your servant.

All glory and honour are yours,
Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit
in the holy Church,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence to the Father
in the words our Saviour gave us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The celebrant breaks the bread, saying –

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

While the bread is broken Agnus Dei is sung –

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

Invitation to Communion

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Act of Spiritual Communion

St Alphonsus Liguori

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come 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.

Communion Antiphon

Mt 20:28

The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve
and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Endow us, almighty God, with the firm conviction
that through your Son's Death in time,
to which the revered mysteries bear witness,
we may be assured of perpetual life .
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE CONCLUDING RITE

Prayer over the People and Blessing

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Grant your faithful, O Lord, we pray,
to partake unceasingly of the paschal mysteries
and to await with longing the gifts to come,
that, persevering in the Sacraments of their rebirth,
they may be led by Lenten works to newness of life.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Christ our Saviour draw you to himself,
that you may find in him crucified
a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sin forgiven;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.