

This jubilee year reminds us that we are pilgrims of hope. Our lives are a pilgrimage and the season of Lent is a concentration of that journey. This time of penitence, of sacrifice, and of suffering is our pilgrimage to the cross, the scene and sign of Jesus' greatest sacrifice. But our faith tells us that neither the cross nor death is the end. Therefore, we can be pilgrims of hope, confident that our journeys through Lent and through life will not end in death, but in new life. May our hope for salvation encourage us as we approach the holiest week of the year.

As we gather let us begin our service by professing what we believe.

Profession of Faith p. 172

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (bow as we say) and by the Holy Spirit he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Introductory Rite:

Greeting:

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

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God forever. **Blessed be God forever.**

Penitential Rite: p. 12

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to participate in this sacred celebration.

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

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

Opening Prayer:

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death.

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.**

Liturgy of the Word:

First Reading p. 162

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the LORD, who opens a way in the sea and a path in the mighty waters, who leads out chariots and

horsemen, a powerful army, till they lie prostrate together, never to rise, snuffed out and quenched like a wick. Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; see, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? In the desert I make a way, in the wasteland, rivers. Wild beasts honor me, jackals and ostriches, for I put water in the desert and rivers in the wasteland for my chosen people to drink, the people whom I formed for myself, that they might announce my praise.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6.

R/. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

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When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion, we were like men dreaming.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing. **R/.**

Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."
The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad indeed. **R/.**

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the torrents in the southern desert.
Those that sow in tears shall reap rejoicing. **R/.**

Although they go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown,
They shall come back rejoicing, carrying their sheaves. **R/.**

Second Reading

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Philippians 3:8-14

Brothers and sisters: I consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having any righteousness of my own based on the law but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God, depending on faith to know him and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by being conformed to his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

It is not that I have already taken hold of it or have already attained perfect maturity, but I continue my pursuit in hope that I may possess it, since I have indeed been taken possession of by Christ Jesus. Brothers and sisters, I for my part do not consider myself to have taken possession. Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

John 8:1-11

Glory to you, Lord

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area, and all the people started coming to him, and he sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle. They said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to

them, “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” Again he bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him. Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She replied, “No one, sir.” Then Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection on the Word:

- As the scribes and Pharisees point out, Jewish law demanded death to a woman caught in adultery. But Roman law forbade Jews from sentencing anyone to death, as we will hear next Sunday (in the Passion). So Jesus is truly in a dilemma, forced to break one law or the other. He succeeds in both thwarting their test and treating the sinner with mercy by refocusing the question of punishment on those who would carry it out: “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her” (John 8:7). When Pope Francis declared that the death penalty was morally inadmissible in every circumstance, he spoke not only of the fundamental dignity of the human person, but also our belief that every sinner can repent and change.
- If we put ourselves into the position of one of the people in the crowd, we can appreciate how Jesus’ words not only deter us from condemning others, but also force us to look at our own failings. Our failings may not seem as great as those whom we condemn, but they still require God’s mercy and forgiveness to restore our relationship with God and with others. One hopes that no one from *this* crowd, now cognizant of their own sinfulness, are part of the crowd whom we will hear next Sunday calling for the death of Jesus.
- In the first reading, Isaiah uses the image of water to describe God’s grace. Like water, God’s grace is necessary to sustain us. God causes it to flow where it is needed the most, like “water in the desert and rivers in the wasteland” (Isaiah 43:20). So it is with God’s mercy. Just as we plead for and receive mercy from the Lord at the beginning of every Mass (“Lord, have mercy”), we are called to extend that mercy we have received to those in need of our forgiveness and compassion. We honor God when we direct the flow of God’s mercy where it is needed the most.

Question of the Week

This week, to whom can I extend the mercy that God has extended to me?

Prayer of the Faithful:

The Lord has done great things for us and so with confidence we present our needs and the needs of the world.

- For the Church, that we may be a sign of God’s forgiveness, responding with mercy instead of condemnation, aware that no one is beyond the grace of redemption, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all who play a role in law enforcement and our judicial system, that they may exercise their authority fairly and justly, never losing sight of the humanity of the people they encounter, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For those who will be welcomed into the Church at Easter, that they may perceive the new way in which God is acting in their lives, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- That during this Jubilee Year of Hope we may bring hope to those who feel ostracized, abandoned, or unloved, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For what else should we pray? Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, again and again you have provided comfort and kindness for your precious children. Look with favor on us now, and grant the prayers we make through the One who looked with favor on the sinful woman: your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer: p. 208

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Rite of Peace:

The sign of peace outwardly expresses a deep spiritual reality; through this sign we acknowledge Christ's presence in each other and share the peace we have received from Him. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

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 that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The body of Christ. **Amen.**


Prayer after Communion:

We pray, almighty God, that we may always be counted among the members of Christ, in whose Body and Blood we have communion.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Concluding Rite:

Final Blessing:

May the Lord bless us,  protect us from all evil and lead us to everlasting life. **Amen**

Go in peace! **Thanks be to God.**