

32 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

The readings assigned for Year A, no. 31, may replace these.

FIRST READING

2 Chronicles 36.14-17a, 19-23++

The wrath and steadfast kindness of the Lord are shown by the exile and restoration of the people.

A reading from the second book of Chronicles.

- 14 All the leading priests and the people were exceedingly unfaithful,
following all the abominations of the nations;
and they polluted the house of the Lord
that he had consecrated in Jerusalem.
- 15 The Lord, the God of their ancestors,
persistently sent his messengers to them,
because he had compassion on his people
and on his dwelling place;
- 16 but they kept mocking the messengers of God,
despising his words,
and scoffing at his prophets,
until the wrath of the Lord against his people became so great
that there was no remedy.
- 17 Therefore the Lord brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans,
19 who burned the house of God,
broke down the wall of Jerusalem,
burned all its palaces with fire,
and destroyed all its precious vessels.
- 20 The king took into exile in Babylon
those who had escaped from the sword,
and they became servants to him and to his sons
until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia,
21 to fulfil the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah,
until the land had made up for its sabbaths.
All the days that it lay desolate it kept sabbath,
to fulfil seventy years.
- 22 In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia,
in fulfilment of the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah,
the Lord stirred up the spirit of King Cyrus of Persia
so that he sent a herald throughout all his kingdom
and also declared in a written edict:

23 “Thus says King Cyrus of Persia:
The Lord, the God of heaven,
has given me all the kingdoms of the earth,
and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem,
which is in Judah.
Whoever is among you of all his people,
may the Lord his God be with him!
Let him go up.”

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 137.1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (R.6)

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

1 By the rivers of Babylon —
there we sat down and there we wept
when we remembered Zion.

2 On the willows there we hung up our harps. **R.**

3 For there our captors
asked us for songs,
and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying,
“Sing us one of the songs of Zion!” **R.**

4 How could we sing the Lord’s song
in a foreign land?

5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither! **R.**

6 Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth,
if I do not remember you,
if I do not set Jerusalem
above my highest joy. **R.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 2.4-10

Even when we were dead through our trespasses, God made us alive.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

4 God, who is rich in mercy,
out of the great love with which he loved us

5 even when we were dead through our trespasses,
made us alive together with Christ—
for it is by grace you have been saved.



6 And God raised us up with Christ
and seated us with him
in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
7 so that in the ages to come
God might show the immeasurable riches of his grace
in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and this is not your own doing;
it is the gift of God.

9 This is not the result of works,
so that no one may boast.

10 For we are what he has made us,
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 3.16

*This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.*

*God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.*

GOSPEL

John 3.14-21

*God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
that we may have eternal life.*

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

14 “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,
so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but may have eternal life.

17 “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be saved through him.

18 Those who believe in him are not condemned;
but those who do not believe are condemned already,
because they have not believed
in the name of the only Son of God.

19 “And this is the judgment,
that the light has come into the world,
and people loved darkness rather than light
because their deeds were evil.
20 For all who do evil hate the light
and do not come to the light,
so that their deeds may not be exposed.
21 But those who do what is true come to the light,
so that it may be clearly seen
that their deeds have been done in God.”

The gospel of the Lord.