



THE WORD

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Fourth Sunday of Lent (Rose or Violet)

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Reflection: *A Bible scholar once said that if for some unfortunate reason all the Bibles disappeared and there was only one story left to be remembered, the Parable of Prodigal Son should be the story that every Christian should never forget. The parable is Jesus' attempt to tell us how merciful is our heavenly Father. Here we see that both sons, the younger and the older have offended their father, yet there is one difference, one admitted that he sinned and was willing to be welcomed back by the father, the other one refuses to admit that there is something wrong with him and continues to reject the invitation of his father for the feasting in the village. Where do we see ourselves in this parable? Hopefully, we may admit our need to be forgiven and share in the joy of our Father in heaven.*

Introduction to the Mass:

THE JOY OF FORGIVENESS.

The story of the prodigal son confirms Jesus' words that there is great rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner. The joyful and lavish banquet prepared by the father to celebrate his son's return is a symbol of the heavenly banquet. In this story the older son cuts himself off from the banquet. Unable to forgive like his father, he chooses to stay outside in his own private hell. May we know the joy of forgiveness and the joy of forgiving.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon:

[cf. Isaiah 66:10-11]

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

Greeting

(Sign of the Cross)

P – The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

All – And with your spirit.

Penitential Act

P – Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P – Lord Jesus, you call us to ponder our final Easter in heaven, Lord, have mercy.

All – Lord, have mercy.

P – Christ Jesus, you save us through your death and resurrection, Christ have mercy.

All – Christ, have mercy.

P – Lord Jesus, you restore dignity to all God's children, Lord have mercy.

All – Lord, have mercy.

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

(Gloria is omitted)

Collect

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager

faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. 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:

[Joshua 5:9-12]

A reading from the Book of Joshua

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at the evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on

what the land of Canaan yielded.

The Word of the Lord.

All – Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

[Psalm 33]

R – Taste and see the goodness of the Lord

I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R)**

Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us praise his name. I sought the Lord and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free. **(R)**

Look towards him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed. This poor man called; the Lord heard him and rescued him from all his distress. **(R)**

Second Reading:

[2 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12]

A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians.

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for

Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

The Word of the Lord.

All – Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

[Luke 15:18]

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I will rise and go to my father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

[Luke 15:1-3, 11-32]

P – The Lord be with you.

All – And with your spirit.

P – A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All – Glory to you, O Lord.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where

he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserved to be called your Son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he

could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But of this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his woman – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

P – The Gospel of the Lord.
All – Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Profession of Faith

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, consub-

stantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (all bow). And by the Holy Spirit 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.

Prayer of the Faithful

P — We come to our loving God and Father, who gives us every good thing in due season. For every petition, let our response be:

R — Lord, hear our prayer.

C – For the holy Church of God, that its members grow in number and service to all people, let us pray to the Lord: **(R)**

C – For nations torn by war or civil unrest, that their citizens and leaders put aside differences and seek peace, let us pray to the Lord: **(R)**

C – For those seeking full communion with the Church, that God strengthen them on their journey, let us pray to the Lord: **(R)**

C – For the members of this assembly, that we find healing and peace in confessing our sins, let us pray to the Lord. **(R)**

C – That those who have died may enter the kingdom of God, especially [*you may insert name/s of those who have died recently*] We pray: **(R)**

P – Trusting in your goodness and love, God of mercy, we place these petitions before you together with those hidden in our hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All — Amen.



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of the Gifts

P – Pray, brothers and sisters...

All – May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the offerings

We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them

to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of the world. Through Christ our Lord. **All – Amen.**

Preface
Lent I

P – The Lord be with you.
All – And with your spirit.
P – Lift up your hearts.
All – We lift them up to the Lord.
P – Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All – It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you have given your children a sacred time for the renewing and purifying of their hearts, that, freed from disordered affections, they may so deal with the things of this passing world as to hold rather to the things that eternally endure.

And so, with all the Angels and Saints, we praise you, as without end we acclaim:

All - Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts. 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.

Acclamation

P – The mystery of faith.
All – Save us Saviour of the world, for by your cross and resurrection, you have redeemed the world.

COMMUNION RITE
The Lord's Prayer

All – Our Father...
P – Deliver us, Lord...
All – For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.
Invitation to Peace

Invitation to Communion
(kneel)

P – 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.

All – Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon
[Luke 15:32]

You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.

Prayer after Communion

P – Let us pray
O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONCLUDING RITES

P – The Lord be with you.
All – And with your spirit.

P – Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

Look upon those who call to you, O Lord, and sustain the weak; give life by your unfailing light to those who walk in the shadow of death, and bring those rescued by your mercy from every evil to reach the highest good. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son + and the Holy Spirit.
All – Amen.

Dismissal

P – Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.
All – Thanks be to God.

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