

Monday-Saturday, 28th March—2nd April, 2022**4th Week of Lent - Year 2****MONDAY***Mass of the Day*

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: As for me, I trust in the Lord. Let me be glad and rejoice in your mercy, for you have seen my affliction.

READING: *Isaiah 65: 17-21*

Thus says the Lord: Now I create new heavens and a new earth, and the past will not be remembered, and will come no more to men's minds. Be glad and rejoice for ever and ever for what I am creating, because I now created Jerusalem 'Joy' and her people 'Gladness'. I shall rejoice over Jerusalem and exult in my people. No more will the sound of weeping or the sound of cries be heard in her, in her, no more will be found the infant living a few days only, or the old man not living to the end of his days. To die at the age of a hundred will be dying young; not to live to be a hundred will be the sign of a curse. They will build houses and inhabit them, plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

PSALM: I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

ACCLAMATION:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Seek good and not evil so that you may live, and the Lord will be with you. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL: *John 4:43-54*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus left Samaria for Galilee. He himself had declared that there is no respect for a prophet in his own country, but on his arrival the Galileans received him well, having seen all that he had done at Jerusalem during the festival which they too had attended.

He went again to Cana in Galilee, where he had changed the water into wine. Now there was a court official there whose son was ill at Capernaum and, hearing that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judaea, he went and asked him to come and cure his son as he was at the point of death. Jesus said, 'So you will not believe unless you see signs and portents!' 'Sir' answered the official 'come down before my child dies.' 'Go home,' said Jesus 'your son will live.' The man believed what Jesus had said and started on his way; and while he was still

on the journey back his servants met him with the news that his boy was alive. He asked them when the boy had begun to recover. 'The fever left him yesterday' they said 'at the seventh hour.' The father realised that this was exactly the time when Jesus had said 'Your son will live'; and he and all his household believed.

This was the second sign given by Jesus, on his return from Judaea to Galilee.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: I will place my spirit within you and make you walk according to my laws; and my judgements you shall keep and observe, says the Lord.

TUESDAY*Mass of the Day*

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: All who are thirsty, come to the waters, says the Lord. Though you have no money, come and drink with joy.

READING: *Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12*

The angel brought me to the entrance of the Temple, where a stream came out from under the Temple threshold and flowed eastwards, since the Temple faced east. The water flowed from under the right side of the Temple, south of the altar. He took me out by the north gate and led me right round outside as far as the outer east gate where the water flowed out on the right-hand side. The man went to the east holding his measuring line and measured off a thousand cubits; he then made me wade across the stream; the water reached my ankles. He measured off another thousand and made me wade across the stream again; the water reached my knees. He measured off another thousand and made me wade across again; the water reached my waist. He measured off another thousand; it was now a river which I could not cross; the stream had swollen and was now deep water, a river impossible to cross. He then said, 'Do you see, son of man?' He took me further, then brought me back to the bank of the river. When I got back, there were many trees on each bank of the river. He said, 'This water flows east down to the Arabah and to the sea; and flowing into the sea it makes its waters wholesome. Whenever the river flows, all living creatures

teeming in it will live. Fish will be very plentiful, for wherever the water goes it brings health, and life teems wherever the river flows. Along the river, on either bank, will grow every kind of fruit tree with leaves that never wither and fruit that ever fails; they will bear new fruit every month, because this water comes from the sanctuary. And their fruit will be good to eat and the leaves medicinal.'

PSALM: The mighty Lord is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

ACCLAMATION: Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ! Create a clean heart in me, O God; give back to me the joy of your salvation. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: John 5:1-3, 5-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There was a Jewish festival, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now at the Sheep Pool in Jerusalem there is a building called Bethzatha in Hebrew, consisting of five portions; and under these were crowds of sick people—blind, lame, paralysed. One man there had an illness which had lasted thirty-eight years, and when Jesus saw him lying there and knew he had been in this condition for a long time, he said, 'Do you want to be well again?' 'Sir,' replied the sick man 'I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is disturbed; and while I am still on the way, someone else gets there before me.' Jesus said, 'Get up, pick up your sleeping-mat and walk.' The man was cured at once, and he picked up his mat and walked away. Now that day happened to be the sabbath, so the Jews said to the man who had been cured, 'It is the sabbath; you are not allowed to carry your sleeping-mat.' He replied, 'But the man who cured me told me, "Pick up your mat and walk."' They asked, 'Who is the man who said to you. "Pick up your mat and walk"?' The man had no idea who it was since Jesus had disappeared into the crowd that filled the place. After a while Jesus met him in the Temple and said, 'Now you are well again, be sure not to sin any more, or something worse may happen to you.' The man went back and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had cured him. It was because he did things like this on the sabbath that the Jews began to persecute Jesus.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.

WEDNESDAY

Mass of the Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: I pray to you, O Lord, for a time of your favour. In your great mercy, answer me, O God, with your salvation that never fails.

READING: Isaiah 49: 8-15

Thus says the Lord: At the favourable time I will answer you, on the day of salvation I will help you.

(I have formed you and have appointed you as covenant of the people.) I will restore the land and assign you the estates that lie waste. I will say to the prisoners, 'Come out', to those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves'.

On every roadway they will graze, and each bare height shall be their pasture. They will never hunger or thirst, scorching wind and sun shall never plague them; for he who pities them will lead them and guide them to springs of water. I will make a highway of all the mountains and the high roads shall be banked up. Some are on their way from afar, others from the north and the west, others from the land of Sinim. Shout for joy, you heavens; exyktm tiy eartg! You mountains, break into happy cries! For the Lord consoles his people and takes pity of those who are afflicted. For Zion was saying, 'The Lord has abandoned me, the Lord has forgotten me.' Does a woman forget her baby at the breast or fail to cherish the son of her womb? Yet even if these forget, I will never forget you.

PSALM: The Lord is kind and merciful.

ACCLAMATION:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: John 5:17-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the Jews: 'My Father goes on working and so do I.' But that only made the Jews even more intent on killing him, because, not content with breaking the sabbath, he spoke of God as his own Father, and so made himself God's equal. To this accusation Jesus replied: 'I tell you most solemnly, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can only do what he sees the Father doing; and whatever the Father does the Son does too. For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything he does himself, and he will show him even greater things than these, works that will astonish you. Thus, as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so the Son gives life to anyone he chooses; for the Father judges no one; he has entrusted all judgement to the Son, so that all may honour the Son as they honour the Father. Whoever refuses honour to the Son refuses honour to the Father who sent him. I tell you most solemnly, whoever listens to my words, and believes in the one who sent me, has eternal life; without being brought to judgement he has passed from death to life. I tell you most solemnly, the hour will come—in fact it is here already—when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and all who hear it will live. For the Father, who is the source of life has made the Son the source of life; and, because he is the So of Man, has appointed him supreme judge. Do not be surprised at this for the hour is coming when the dead will leave their graves at the sound of his voice: those who did good will rise again to life;

and those who did evil, to condemnation, I can do nothing by myself; I can only judge as I am told to judge, and my judging is just, because my aim is to do not my own will, but the will of him who sent me.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

THURSDAY

Mass of the Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

READING: *Exodus 32:7-14*

The Lord spoke to Moses; 'Go down now, because your people whom you brought out of Egypt have apostasised. They have been quick to leave the way I marked out for them; they have made themselves a calf of molten metal and have worshipped it and offered it sacrifice. "Here is your God, Israel," they have cried, "who brought you up from the land of Egypt!" I can see how headstrong these people are! Leave me now, my wrath shall blaze out against them and devour them; of you, however, I will make a great nation.'

But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God. 'Lord,' he said 'why should your wrath blaze out against this people of yours whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with arm outstretched and mighty hand? Why let the Egyptians say, "Ah, it was in treachery that he brought them out, to do them to death in the mountains and wipe them off the face of the earth"? Leave your burning wrath; relent and do not bring this disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, your servants to whom by your own self you swore and made this promise: I will make your offspring as many as the stars of heaven, and all this land which I promised I will give to your descendants, and it shall be their heritage for ever.' So the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

PSALM: Lord, remember us for the love you bear for your people.

ACCLAMATION:

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! God loved the world so much, he gave his only Son that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: *John 5: 31-47*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the Jews:

'Were I to testify on my own behalf, my testimony would not be valid; but there is another witness who can speak on my behalf, and I know that his testimony is valid.

You sent messengers to John, and he gave his testimony to the truth:

not that I depend on human testimony; no, it is for your salvation that I speak of this. John was a lamp alight and shining and for a time you were content to enjoy the light that he gave. But my testimony is greater than John's: the works my Father has given me to carry out, these same works of mine testify that the Father has sent me.

Besides, the Father who sent me bears witness to me himself.

You have never heard his voice, you have never seen his shape, and his word finds no home in you because you do not believe in the one he has sent.

'You study the scriptures, believing that in them you have eternal life; now these same scriptures testify to me and yet you refuse to come to me for life!

As for human approval, this means nothing to me.

Besides, I know you too well:

you have no love of God in you.

I have come in the name of my Father

and you refuse to accept me;

if someone else comes in his own name

you will accept him.

'How can you believe,

since you look to one another for approval

and are not concerned

with the approval that comes from the one God?

Do not imagine that I am going to accuse you before the Father:

you place your hopes on Moses,

and Moses will be your accuser.

If you really believed him

you would believe me too,

since it was I that he was writing about;

but if you refuse to believe what he wrote,

how can you believe what I say?'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: I will place my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people, says the Lord.

FRIDAY

Mass of the Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: O God, save me by your name; by your power, defend my cause. O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth.

FIRST READING: *Wisdom 2: 1, 12-22*

The godless say to themselves, with their misguided reasoning:

'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us and opposes our way of life,

reproaches us for our breaches of the law and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing.

He claims to have knowledge of God, and calls himself a son of the Lord.

Before us he stands, a reproof to our way of thinking, the very sight of him weighs our spirits down; his way of life is not like other men's, the paths he treads are unfamiliar.

In his opinion we are counterfeit; he holds aloof from our doings as though from filth; he proclaims the final end of the virtuous as happy and boasts of having God for his father.

Let us see if what he says is true, let us observe what kind of end he himself will have.

If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies.

Let us test him with cruelty and with torture, and thus explore this gentleness of his and put his endurance to the proof.

Let us condemn him to a shameful death since he will be looked after – we have his word for it.'

This is the way they reason, but they are misled, their malice makes them blind.

They do not know the hidden things of God, they have no hope that holiness will be rewarded, they can see no reward for blameless souls.

PSALM: The Lord is near to broken hearts.

ACCLAMATION:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL: John 7: 1-2, 10, 25-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus stayed in Galilee; he could not stay in Judaea, because the Jews were out to kill him.

As the Jewish feast of Tabernacles drew near, after his brothers had left for the festival, Jesus went up as well, but quite privately, without drawing attention to himself.

Meanwhile some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, 'Isn't this the man they want to kill? And here he is, speaking freely, and they have nothing to say to him!

Can it be true the authorities have made up their minds that he is the Christ? Yet we all know where he comes from, but when the Christ appears no one will know where he comes from.'

Then, as Jesus taught in the Temple, he cried out:

'Yes, you know me and you know where I came from.

Yet I have not come of myself: no, there is one who sent me and I really come from him, and you do not know him, but I know him because I have come from him and it was he who sent me.' They would have arrested him then, but because his time had not yet come no one laid a hand on him.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: In Christ, we have redemption by his Blood, and forgiveness of our sins, in accord with the riches of his grace.

SATURDAY

Mass of the Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: The waves of death rose about me; the pains of the netherworld surrounded me. In my anguish I called to the Lord, and from his holy temple he heard my voice.

READING: Jeremiah 11:18-20

The Lord revealed it to me; I was warned. Lord, that was when you opened my eyes to their scheming. I for my part was like a trustful lamb being led to the slaughter-house, not knowing the schemes they were plotting against me, 'Let us destroy the tree in its strength, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name may be quickly forgotten!'

But you, Lord of hosts, who pronounce a just sentence, who probe the loins and heart, let me see the vengeance you will take on them, for I have committed my cause to you

PSALM: Lord, my God, I take shelter in you.

ACCLAMATION:

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ! Happy are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and yield a harvest through perseverance.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: John 7:40-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Several people who had been listening to Jesus said, 'Surely he must be the prophet', and some said, 'He is the Christ', but others said, 'Would the Christ be from Galilee? Does not scripture say that the Christ must be descended from David and come from the town of Bethlehem?'

So the people could not agree about him. Some would have liked to arrest him, but no one actually laid hands on him.

The police went back to the chief priests and Pharisees who said to them, 'Why haven't you brought him?'

The police replied, 'There has never been anybody who has spoken like him.' 'So' the Pharisees answered 'you have been led astray as well? Have any of the authorities believed in him? Any of the Pharisees? This rabble knows nothing about the Law – they are damned.' One of them, Nicodemus – the same man who had come to Jesus earlier – said to them, 'But surely the Law does not allow us to pass judgement on a man without giving him a hearing and discovering what he is about?' To this they answered, 'Are you a Galilean too? Go into the matter, and see for yourself: prophets do not come out of Galilee.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: By the precious Blood of Christ, the Blood of a spotless and unblemished Lamb, we have been redeemed.