

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**22nd March 2009**

**First Reading** **2 Chr. 36:15-21**

**A reading from the second book of Chronicles**

*They ridiculed the prophets of God, until at last his wrath rose so high,  
there was no remedy.*

The Lord, the God of their ancestors, sent persistently to the priests and people of Jerusalem by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place; 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. Therefore he brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their youths with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or young woman, the aged or the feeble; he gave them all into his hand. All the vessels of the house of God, large and small, and the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king and of his officials, all these he brought to Babylon. They burned the house of God, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious vessels. He 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, to fulfill 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 fulfill seventy years. Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm** **Ps. 136 (137)**

**Response:** *Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!*

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| 1. By the rivers of Babylon<br>there we sat and wept,<br>remembering Zion;<br>on the poplars that grew there<br>we hung up our harps. <b>R.</b>                   | 3. O how could we sing<br>the song of the Lord<br>on alien soil?<br>If I forget you, Jerusalem,<br>let my right hand wither! <b>R.</b> |
| 2. For it was there that they asked<br>us,<br>our captors, for songs,<br>our oppressors, for joy.<br>'Sing to us,' they said,<br>'one of Zion's songs.' <b>R.</b> | 4. O let my tongue<br>cleave to my mouth<br>if I remember you not,<br>if I prize not Jerusalem<br>above all my joys! <b>R.</b>         |

**Second Reading** **Eph. 2:4-10**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians**

*When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.*

God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast. 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. Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**GOSPEL** **Jn. 3:14-21**

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John

℟: **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

*God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son.*

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"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. 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. 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. 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. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. 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."

For the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Christ.**

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