

February 28, 2010

**SUNDAY**

**Reading I**

[Gn 15:5-12, 17-18](#)

The Lord God took Abram outside and said,  
“Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can.  
Just so,” he added, “shall your descendants be.”  
Abram put his faith in the LORD,  
who credited it to him as an act of righteousness.

He then said to him,  
“I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the  
Chaldeans  
to give you this land as a possession.”  
“O Lord GOD,” he asked,  
“how am I to know that I shall possess it?”  
He answered him,  
“Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old she-  
goat,  
a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”  
Abram brought him all these, split them in two,  
and placed each half opposite the other;  
but the birds he did not cut up.  
Birds of prey swooped down on the carcasses,  
but Abram stayed with them.  
As the sun was about to set, a trance fell upon Abram,  
and a deep, terrifying darkness enveloped him.

When the sun had set and it was dark,  
there appeared a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch,  
which passed between those pieces.  
It was on that occasion that the LORD made a covenant  
with Abram,  
saying: “To your descendants I give this land,  
from the Wadi of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates.”

**Responsorial Psalm**

[Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14.](#)

(1a) **The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom should I fear?

The LORD is my life’s refuge;  
of whom should I be afraid?

**The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

Hear, O LORD, the sound of my call;  
have pity on me, and answer me.

Of you my heart speaks; you my glance seeks.

**The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

Your presence, O LORD, I seek.  
Hide not your face from me;

do not in anger repel your servant.

You are my helper: cast me not off.

**The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD  
in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD with courage;  
be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD.

**reading II**

[Phil 3:17—4:1 or 3:20—4:1](#)

Join with others in being imitators of me, brothers and  
sisters,  
and observe those who thus conduct themselves  
according to the model you have in us.  
For many, as I have often told you  
and now tell you even in tears,  
conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ.  
Their end is destruction.  
Their God is their stomach;  
their glory is in their “shame.”  
Their minds are occupied with earthly things.  
But our citizenship is in heaven,  
and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.  
He will change our lowly body  
to conform with his glorified body  
by the power that enables him also  
to bring all things into subjection to himself.  
Therefore, my brothers and sisters,  
whom I love and long for, my joy and crown,  
in this way stand firm in the Lord.

**or**

Brothers and sisters:  
Our citizenship is in heaven,  
and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.  
He will change our lowly body  
to conform with his glorified body  
by the power that enables him also  
to bring all things into subjection to himself.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters,  
whom I love and long for, my joy and crown,  
in this way stand firm in the Lord, beloved.

**Gospel**

[Lk 9:28b-36](#)

Jesus took Peter, John, and James  
and went up the mountain to pray.  
While he was praying his face changed in appearance  
and his clothing became dazzling white.  
And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses  
and Elijah,  
who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus  
that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem.  
Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep,  
but becoming fully awake,  
they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.  
As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus,  
“Master, it is good that we are here;  
let us make three tents,  
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”  
But he did not know what he was saying.  
While he was still speaking,

February 28, 2010

a cloud came and cast a shadow over them,  
and they became frightened when they entered the cloud.  
Then from the cloud came a voice that said,  
“This is my chosen Son; listen to him.”  
After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.  
They fell silent and did not at that time  
tell anyone what they had seen.

---

**MONDAY**

**Reading I**

[Dn 9:4b-10](#)

“Lord, great and awesome God,  
you who keep your merciful covenant toward those who  
love you  
and observe your commandments!  
We have sinned, been wicked and done evil;  
we have rebelled and departed from your commandments  
and your laws.  
We have not obeyed your servants the prophets,  
who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes,  
our fathers, and all the people of the land.  
Justice, O Lord, is on your side;  
we are shamefaced even to this day:  
we, the men of Judah, the residents of Jerusalem,  
and all Israel, near and far,  
in all the countries to which you have scattered them  
because of their treachery toward you.  
O LORD, we are shamefaced, like our kings, our princes,  
and our fathers,  
for having sinned against you.  
But yours, O Lord, our God, are compassion and  
forgiveness!  
Yet we rebelled against you  
and paid no heed to your command, O LORD, our God,  
to live by the law you gave us through your servants the  
prophets.”

**Responsorial Psalm**

[79:8, 9, 11 and 13](#)

R. (see 103:10a) **Lord, do not deal with us according to our sins.**

Remember not against us the iniquities of the past;  
may your compassion quickly come to us,  
for we are brought very low.

R. **Lord, do not deal with us according to our sins.**

Help us, O God our savior,  
because of the glory of your name;  
Deliver us and pardon our sins  
for your name's sake.

R. **Lord, do not deal with us according to our sins.**

Let the prisoners' sighing come before you;  
with your great power free those doomed to death.  
Then we, your people and the sheep of your pasture,  
will give thanks to you forever;

through all generations we will declare your praise.

R. **Lord, do not deal with us according to our sins.**

**Gospel**

[Lk 6:36-38](#)

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

“Stop judging and you will not be judged.

Stop condemning and you will not be condemned.

Forgive and you will be forgiven.

Give and gifts will be given to you;

a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and  
overflowing,

will be poured into your lap.

For the measure with which you measure  
will in return be measured out to you.”

---

**TUESDAY**

**Reading I**

[Is 1:10, 16-20](#)

Hear the word of the LORD,  
princes of Sodom!

Listen to the instruction of our God,  
people of Gomorrah!

Wash yourselves clean!

Put away your misdeeds from before my eyes;  
cease doing evil; learn to do good.

Make justice your aim: redress the wronged,  
hear the orphan's plea, defend the widow.

Come now, let us set things right,  
says the LORD:

Though your sins be like scarlet,  
they may become white as snow;

Though they be crimson red,  
they may become white as wool.

If you are willing, and obey,  
you shall eat the good things of the land;

But if you refuse and resist,  
the sword shall consume you:

for the mouth of the LORD has spoken!

**Responsorial Psalm**

[50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23](#)

R. (23b) **To the upright I will show the saving power of God.**

“Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you,  
for your burnt offerings are before me always.  
I take from your house no bullock,  
no goats out of your fold.”

R. **To the upright I will show the saving power of God.**

February 28, 2010

“Why do you recite my statutes,  
and profess my covenant with your mouth,  
Though you hate discipline  
and cast my words behind you?”

**R. To the upright I will show the saving power of God.**

“When you do these things, shall I be deaf to it?  
Or do you think that I am like yourself?  
I will correct you by drawing them up before your eyes.  
He that offers praise as a sacrifice glorifies me;  
and to him that goes the right way I will show the salvation  
of God.”

**R. To the upright I will show the saving power of God.**

### **Gospel**

[Mt 23:1-12](#)

Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying,  
“The scribes and the Pharisees  
have taken their seat on the chair of Moses.  
Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell  
you,  
but do not follow their example.  
For they preach but they do not practice.  
They tie up heavy burdens hard to carry  
and lay them on people’s shoulders,  
but they will not lift a finger to move them.  
All their works are performed to be seen.  
They widen their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels.  
They love places of honor at banquets, seats of honor in  
synagogues,  
greetings in marketplaces, and the salutation ‘Rabbi.’  
As for you, do not be called ‘Rabbi.’  
You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers.  
Call no one on earth your father;  
you have but one Father in heaven.  
Do not be called ‘Master’;  
you have but one master, the Christ.  
The greatest among you must be your servant.  
Whoever exalts himself will be humbled;  
but whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”

---

### **WEDNESDAY**

#### **Reading I**

[Jer 18:18-20](#)

The people of Judah and the citizens of Jerusalem said,  
“Come, let us contrive a plot against Jeremiah.  
It will not mean the loss of instruction from the priests,  
nor of counsel from the wise, nor of messages from the  
prophets.  
And so, let us destroy him by his own tongue;  
let us carefully note his every word.”

Heed me, O LORD,  
and listen to what my adversaries say.  
Must good be repaid with evil  
that they should dig a pit to take my life?  
Remember that I stood before you  
to speak in their behalf,  
to turn away your wrath from them.

### **Responsorial Psalm**

[31:5-6, 14, 15-16](#)

**R. (17b) Save me, O Lord, in your kindness.**

You will free me from the snare they set for me,  
for you are my refuge.

Into your hands I commend my spirit;  
you will redeem me, O LORD, O faithful God.

**R. Save me, O Lord, in your kindness.**

I hear the whispers of the crowd, that frighten me from  
every side,  
as they consult together against me, plotting to take my life.

**R. Save me, O Lord, in your kindness.**

But my trust is in you, O LORD;  
I say, “You are my God.”

In your hands is my destiny; rescue me  
from the clutches of my enemies and my persecutors.

**R. Save me, O Lord, in your kindness.**

### **Gospel**

[Mt 20:17-28](#)

As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem,  
he took the Twelve disciples aside by themselves,  
and said to them on the way,  
“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem,  
and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests  
and the scribes,  
and they will condemn him to death,  
and hand him over to the Gentiles  
to be mocked and scourged and crucified,  
and he will be raised on the third day.”

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee approached Jesus  
with her sons  
and did him homage, wishing to ask him for something.  
He said to her, “What do you wish?”

She answered him,

“Command that these two sons of mine sit,  
one at your right and the other at your left, in your  
kingdom.”

Jesus said in reply,

“You do not know what you are asking.  
Can you drink the chalice that I am going to drink?”  
They said to him, “We can.”

He replied,

“My chalice you will indeed drink,  
but to sit at my right and at my left,  
this is not mine to give  
but is for those for whom it has been prepared by my

February 28, 2010

Father.”

When the ten heard this,  
they became indignant at the two brothers.  
But Jesus summoned them and said,  
“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them,  
and the great ones make their authority over them felt.  
But it shall not be so among you.  
Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be  
your servant;  
whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave.  
Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to  
serve  
and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

---

**THURSDAY**

**Reading I**

[Jer 17:5-10](#)

Thus says the LORD:  
Cursed is the man who trusts in human beings,  
who seeks his strength in flesh,  
whose heart turns away from the LORD.  
He is like a barren bush in the desert  
that enjoys no change of season,  
But stands in a lava waste,  
a salt and empty earth.  
Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,  
whose hope is the LORD.  
He is like a tree planted beside the waters  
that stretches out its roots to the stream:  
It fears not the heat when it comes,  
its leaves stay green;  
In the year of drought it shows no distress,  
but still bears fruit.  
More tortuous than all else is the human heart,  
beyond remedy; who can understand it?  
I, the LORD, alone probe the mind  
and test the heart,  
To reward everyone according to his ways,  
according to the merit of his deeds.

**Responsorial Psalm**

[1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6](#)

R. (40:5a) **Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.**  
Blessed the man who follows not  
the counsel of the wicked  
Nor walks in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the company of the insolent,  
But delights in the law of the LORD  
and meditates on his law day and night.  
R. **Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.**  
He is like a tree

planted near running water,  
That yields its fruit in due season,  
and whose leaves never fade.  
Whatever he does, prospers.  
R. **Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.**  
Not so, the wicked, not so;  
they are like chaff which the wind drives away.  
For the LORD watches over the way of the just,  
but the way of the wicked vanishes.  
R. **Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.**

**Gospel**

[Lk 16:19-31](#)

Jesus said to the Pharisees:  
“There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and  
fine linen  
and dined sumptuously each day.  
And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus,  
covered with sores,  
who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps  
that fell from the rich man’s table.  
Dogs even used to come and lick his sores.  
When the poor man died,  
he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham.  
The rich man also died and was buried,  
and from the netherworld, where he was in torment,  
he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off  
and Lazarus at his side.  
And he cried out, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me.  
Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool  
my tongue,  
for I am suffering torment in these flames.’  
Abraham replied, ‘My child,  
remember that you received what was good during your  
lifetime  
while Lazarus likewise received what was bad;  
but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented.  
Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established  
to prevent anyone from crossing  
who might wish to go from our side to yours  
or from your side to ours.’  
He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, send him  
to my father’s house,  
for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them,  
lest they too come to this place of torment.’  
But Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets.  
Let them listen to them.’  
He said, ‘Oh no, father Abraham,  
but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will  
repent.’  
Then Abraham said,  
‘If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets,  
neither will they be persuaded  
if someone should rise from the dead.’“

February 28, 2010

---

**FRIDAY**

**Reading I**

[Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a](#)

Israel loved Joseph best of all his sons,  
for he was the child of his old age;  
and he had made him a long tunic.  
When his brothers saw that their father loved him best of  
all his sons,  
they hated him so much that they would not even greet him.

One day, when his brothers had gone  
to pasture their father's flocks at Shechem,  
Israel said to Joseph,  
"Your brothers, you know, are tending our flocks at  
Shechem.  
Get ready; I will send you to them."

So Joseph went after his brothers and caught up with them  
in Dothan.

They noticed him from a distance,  
and before he came up to them, they plotted to kill him.  
They said to one another: "Here comes that master  
dreamer!  
Come on, let us kill him and throw him into one of the  
cisterns here;  
we could say that a wild beast devoured him.  
We shall then see what comes of his dreams."

When Reuben heard this,  
he tried to save him from their hands, saying,  
"We must not take his life.  
Instead of shedding blood," he continued,  
"just throw him into that cistern there in the desert;  
but do not kill him outright."  
His purpose was to rescue him from their hands  
and return him to his father.  
So when Joseph came up to them,  
they stripped him of the long tunic he had on;  
then they took him and threw him into the cistern,  
which was empty and dry.

They then sat down to their meal.  
Looking up, they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming  
from Gilead,  
their camels laden with gum, balm and resin  
to be taken down to Egypt.  
Judah said to his brothers:  
"What is to be gained by killing our brother and concealing  
his blood?  
Rather, let us sell him to these Ishmaelites,  
instead of doing away with him ourselves.  
After all, he is our brother, our own flesh."  
His brothers agreed.

They sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of  
silver.

**Responsorial Psalm**

[105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21](#)

R. (5a) **Remember the marvels the Lord has done.**  
When the LORD called down a famine on the land  
and ruined the crop that sustained them,  
He sent a man before them,  
Joseph, sold as a slave.

R. **Remember the marvels the Lord has done.**  
They had weighed him down with fetters,  
and he was bound with chains,  
Till his prediction came to pass  
and the word of the LORD proved him true.

R. **Remember the marvels the Lord has done.**  
The king sent and released him,  
the ruler of the peoples set him free.  
He made him lord of his house  
and ruler of all his possessions.

R. **Remember the marvels the Lord has done.**

**Gospel**

[Mt 21:33-43, 45-46](#)

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people:  
"Hear another parable.

There was a landowner who planted a vineyard,  
put a hedge around it,  
dug a wine press in it, and built a tower.  
Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey.  
When vintage time drew near,  
he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce.  
But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat,  
another they killed, and a third they stoned.  
Again he sent other servants, more numerous than the first  
ones,  
but they treated them in the same way.  
Finally, he sent his son to them,  
thinking, 'They will respect my son.'  
But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another,  
'This is the heir.  
Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance.'  
They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed  
him.

What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants  
when he comes?"

They answered him,  
"He will put those wretched men to a wretched death  
and lease his vineyard to other tenants  
who will give him the produce at the proper times."

Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures:

*The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
by the Lord has this been done,  
and it is wonderful in our eyes?*

February 28, 2010

Therefore, I say to you,  
the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you  
and given to a people that will produce its fruit.”  
When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables,  
they knew that he was speaking about them.  
And although they were attempting to arrest him,  
they feared the crowds, for they regarded him as a prophet.

---

**SATURDAY**

**Reading I**

[Mi 7:14-15, 18-20](#)

Shepherd your people with your staff,  
the flock of your inheritance,  
That dwells apart in a woodland,  
in the midst of Carmel.  
Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead,  
as in the days of old;  
As in the days when you came from the land of Egypt,  
show us wonderful signs.

Who is there like you, the God who removes guilt  
and pardons sin for the remnant of his inheritance;  
Who does not persist in anger forever,  
but delights rather in clemency,  
And will again have compassion on us,  
treading underfoot our guilt?  
You will cast into the depths of the sea all our sins;  
You will show faithfulness to Jacob,  
and grace to Abraham,  
As you have sworn to our fathers  
from days of old.

**Responsorial Psalm**

[:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12](#)

R. (8a) **The Lord is kind and merciful.**

Bless the LORD, O my soul;  
and all my being, bless his holy name.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits.

R. **The Lord is kind and merciful.**

He pardons all your iniquities,  
he heals all your ills.  
He redeems your life from destruction,  
he crowns you with kindness and compassion.

R. **The Lord is kind and merciful.**

He will not always chide,  
nor does he keep his wrath forever.  
Not according to our sins does he deal with us,  
nor does he requite us according to our crimes.

R. **The Lord is kind and merciful.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he put our transgressions from us.

R. **The Lord is kind and merciful.**

**Gospel**

[Lk 15:1-3, 11-32](#)

Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus,  
but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying,  
“This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”  
So to them Jesus addressed this parable.  
“A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father,  
‘Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me.’  
So the father divided the property between them.  
After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings  
and set off to a distant country  
where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation.  
When he had freely spent everything,  
a severe famine struck that country,  
and he found himself in dire need.  
So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens  
who sent him to his farm to tend the swine.  
And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed,  
but nobody gave him any.  
Coming to his senses he thought,  
‘How many of my father’s hired workers  
have more than enough food to eat,  
but here am I, dying from hunger.  
I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him,  
“Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.  
I no longer deserve to be called your son;  
treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.”’  
So he got up and went back to his father.  
While he was still a long way off,  
his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion.  
He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him.  
His son said to him,  
‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you;  
I no longer deserve to be called your son.’  
But his father ordered his servants,  
‘Quickly, bring the finest robe and put it on him;  
put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.  
Take the fattened calf and slaughter it.  
Then let us celebrate with a feast,  
because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again;  
he was lost, and has been found.’  
Then the celebration began.  
Now the older son had been out in the field  
and, on his way back, as he neared the house,  
he heard the sound of music and dancing.

February 28, 2010

He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean.

The servant said to him,

‘Your brother has returned  
and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf  
because he has him back safe and sound.’

He became angry,

and when he refused to enter the house,  
his father came out and pleaded with him.

He said to his father in reply,

‘Look, all these years I served you  
and not once did I disobey your orders;  
yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with  
my friends.

But when your son returns  
who swallowed up your property with prostitutes,  
for him you slaughter the fattened calf.’

He said to him,

‘My son, you are here with me always;  
everything I have is yours.

But now we must celebrate and rejoice,  
because your brother was dead and has come to life again;  
he was lost and has been found.’“

---