



14 MARCH 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

INTRODUCTION:

Today, the Church invites us to reflect on God's unconditional love for the world and to be joyful because of it. It was a profound act of love for the Father to send His only Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. In return, we must accept Christ into our lives by believing in His mission and giving our lives to Him in return. Only then will we be able to radiate God's love and light to those around us.

INTRODUCTION TO THE READINGS:

In the first reading the unfaithfulness and infidelity of the Israelites to the Covenant, had them removed and sent into exile. Just as God sent Cyrus, king of Persia to bring his people back, God sends Jesus to bring us back and offer us the fullness of Life in Christ. The Psalm challenges us to remember and never forget what God has done for us by sending His Son Jesus Christ.

READINGS:

First Reading: 2 Chr 36:14-16,19-23

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 137:1-2,3,4-5,6

Second Reading: Eph 2:4-10

Gospel: Jn 3:14-21

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: God, our loving Father invites us to live a life of commitment to Him. Trusting in His great love for us, let us bring our prayers before Him with unwavering faith and confidence.

Our response is: Loving Father, hear our prayer.

For our Pope Francis, the bishops, the clergy, the religious and all who serve as ambassadors of Christ, that by preaching His word, they may be renewed in faith and fidelity to their mission; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

For the physically and mentally challenged and those with special needs, that they may experience God's grace and love in their lives, be treated with dignity and respect and may feel welcome and included into the mainstream of society; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

For our children and youth, that they may be protected from the dangers present in our world today and be strengthened in faith as God draws them nearer and nearer to Him; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

For all of us gathered here and those hearing online Eucharist, that as we imbibe God's Word and understand the depth of His great love for us, we may be able to radiate His love and light to the people around us; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

Celebrant: Almighty God and source of all light, enlighten the eyes of our hearts that we may clearly see the love you have for us and actively seek to bring about all that we have prayed for. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM THE CORONA VIRUS:

Almighty and merciful God, who show Your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the Coronavirus in various parts of the world.

We come before You asking for an efficacious control of the outbreak, for a healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We thank You for blessing the efforts of our research scientists working on the development of a vaccine. We pray that these vaccines will be effective in combating the virus and its mutants, and in controlling the spread of the pandemic. We pray that the vaccine be available for all our people even the poor and those in rural areas.

We pray for doctors, nurses and health workers who are in the frontline of this battle, that they be kept safe and have the strength and courage to continue their heroic efforts.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.