



10 MARCH 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - B



Introduction: The first reading is a chronicled account of Israel's infidelity to God that separated them from Him and how God, through Cyrus, will offer them an opportunity to come back. Paul, in the second reading, reminds the Ephesians that they were dead through their sin that had separated them from God; but how God's unmerited grace had brought them back to life through Christ Jesus. In the Gospel, Jesus reminds us that we condemn ourselves when we consciously separate from God by looking away from Him and turning towards sin. This Lent, let us turn towards the Lord that we may live fully.

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

Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: Father, giver of all that is good, we surrender ourselves to You today, with the confidence, that in Your loving providence, You will grant the longings of our soul.

Our response is: *Merciful Lord, hear us.*

For the Ministers of the Church: that their teachings may confront the faithful with the consequences of sin, guiding them back, to walk in the light of Christ ...*(brief silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord.

For those in governance: that they may use their office to promote the well-being of all, with a special emphasis on the health and empowerment of girl-children and women ...*(brief silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord.

As we celebrate Women's Day, we lift up in prayer all women - daughters, sisters, wives and mothers in their diverse roles: that they may receive the strength to uphold their dignity and be empowered to fulfil her rightful role in society. ...*(brief silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord.

For girls and women who are vulnerable, victims of abuse, discrimination and violence, those unloved and rejected: that they may receive protection, healing, support and the strength to overcome these challenges ...*(brief silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord.

For each of us: that the nourishment we receive from God's Word and Sacrament may strengthen us to turn away from everything sinful and turn towards our loving and merciful Father ...*(brief silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord.

For our personal intentions, we pray in silence ...*(longer silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Father, may this season of grace, draw us closer to You in whom we live and move and have our being. We pray this, through Christ, our Lord ... Amen.

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