



USCCaruso
Catholic Center

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Family Prayer Service

Presider: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

Let us acknowledge the times which we have not been faithful to God.

Penitential Rite A

All: I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
(striking your breast, say:)
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
(Then continue with:)
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Opening Prayer:

Presider:

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen

A Reading from the book of the Prophet Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers the day I took them by the hand to lead them forth from the land of Egypt; for they broke my covenant, and I had to show myself their master, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD. I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer will they have need to teach their friends and relatives how to know the LORD. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the LORD, for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 (12a)

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense. Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not out from your presence, and your Holy Spirit take not from me.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me. I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners shall return to you.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews:

Hebrews 5:7-9

In the days when Christ Jesus was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

The Word of the Lord

Verse before the Gospel

John 12:26

Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, there also will my servant be.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to John:

John 12:20-33

Some Greeks who had come to worship at the Passover Feast came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.

"I am troubled now. Yet what should I say, 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection/Family Discussion on the readings and Gospel:

by Fr. Richard Sunwoo

Today, the Greeks in our Gospel echo what is in our hearts and minds as we hasten towards Easter. They tell Philip: “Sir, we would like to see Jesus.” I don’t know how many times that I have echoed those words in some shape or form over the years. When I was younger, I really wanted to know what Jesus was really like. It didn’t occur to me that I can get to know Jesus by reading the Gospels! Rather, I buried myself in trying to find some sort of historical artifact or photo. I didn’t realize, until much later, that Jesus was right there in the Eucharist, and that I didn’t need an artifact or an old photo. When I receive Jesus in the Eucharist, I receive all of Him—body, soul, and divinity! During the Mass, I listen to His words and watch, through my mind’s eye, how He interacts with people. Then, I get to see how He interacts with me as I watch the gifts of bread and wine being transformed into His body and blood. For those brief moments, I am with HIM and when I receive Him, Jesus is intimately with me!

For almost a year now, many in our community have been away from the Eucharist; however, this is not how we are called to worship. We have worshiped as best as we could, given our circumstances. I hope that we never lose the desire to give right worship to Our Father through our participation in the Mass! I hope that we constantly whisper those powerful words: “I would like to see Jesus.” We must desire to, once again, be in our parish Church for Mass to receive Jesus again in the Eucharist and to prepare to receive the Eucharist through the forgiveness of our sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This is at the very heart of who we are as Catholics! Jesus, in the Eucharist, is and always will be, the source, summit, and font from which our life of faith flows.

Jesus then challenges us in a way that shakes each of us to the core. He teaches: “Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hate his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life...” All of our love for Jesus and all that we have been nourished by the Eucharist propels us to make this single decision: I must die to my old life and put on the New Life that Jesus is going to give me. We are made for much more than what or how we are currently living our lives. Yet, this “more” can only be borne from the ashes of our former selves. For many of us, we lack the courage to let God be God and to surrender our lives to Him. That is why we must prayerfully devour the Gospels so that we might learn more about Jesus. The more we learn, may we fall more in love with Him. When we love Jesus, we want to talk to him often. When we speak to Jesus often, we grow in trust—trust enough for us to surrender our lives to Him and His will. Yet, through this whole process, Jesus makes himself available to us so profoundly and vulnerably in the Eucharist as He did on Holy Thursday night.

Jesus never asks anyone to do something that He has not done himself—including giving up his life for you and for me! Jesus shows us the way to true love, trust, and obedience! Therefore, Jesus continues to teach us: “Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be...” No one can run away from the cross unless we also run away from Jesus himself! Let us not be afraid to love Jesus and to follow that love with him to the cross! This week, make an intentional sacrifice and offer that to The Father asking that this small sacrifice might increase, in us, a flame of love for Jesus. Be brave in the sacrifice and be bold! Like a child who gives up his after dinner dessert to his sibling, may we approach our sacrifice this week with as much love as this child—not for our own sake or ego, but offering it for someone else.

Nicene Creed:

ALL:

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(bow)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

(raise from bow)

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins, and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen

Presider:

With the same hope and confidence, we have that winter will be transformed into spring and that the grain of wheat will yield its harvest, let us offer our prayers to God in Jesus' name:

Intercessions:

That, our common life together, our Church and parish community may proclaim the life and love of God:

(Pause for silent prayer).

All: Lord, hear us.

That those who serve the Church as bishops, priests, deacons, and ministers may imitate the humble obedience of Christ Jesus:

(Pause for silent prayer).

All: Lord, hear us.

That the wisdom and justice of God may be the foundation of all laws and public policy enacted by the world's nations, states, and governments:

(Pause for silent prayer).

All: Lord, hear us.

That those who are entombed by illness, substance abuse, violence, or fear may be raised up to a new life of hope and fulfillment:

(Pause for silent prayer).

All: Lord, hear us.

That all who grieve and mourn, who are suffering the pain of broken relationships, may experience God's presence in our loving care and support:

(Pause for silent prayer).

All: Lord, hear us.

That those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith may find light, happiness, and peace:

(Pause for silent prayer).

All: Lord, hear us.

Presider:

God of life, Source of love, accept the offering of our prayers. Bless us always with the hope of the grain of wheat, that we may seek to die to ourselves for the sake of others so that we may one day rise to the new life of the eternal springtime of your Son, our Lord and Risen Savior, Jesus Christ. Who lives and reigns forever and ever.

Our Father:

Presider: At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Amen

Sign of Peace:

Presider: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen

Presider:

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All:

And with your spirit.

Presider:

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

(At this time, please offer a moment of silence before the Spiritual Communion is said.)

Spiritual Communion:

All: I wish my Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility and devotion with which your most holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervor of the saints.

Closing Prayer:

Presider:

We pray, almighty God, that we may always be counted among the members of Christ, in whose Body and Blood we have communion. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen