

Our Lady of Loretto and St Michael

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

LAETARE SUNDAY – MOTHERS DAY

Lord Jesus, you come to bring us eternal life. Kyrie Eleison

All Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison

Christ Jesus you come not to condemn but to save. Christe Eleison

All Christe Eleison, Christe Eleison

Lord Jesus, you give us the grace to believe and to live in your light. Kyrie Eleison

All Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison

FIRST READING A reading from the second book of Chronicles.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its Sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep Sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed through his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up"'

The word of the Lord.

**R. O let me tongue cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not!**

By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung up our harps. R.

For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,

our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said,
'one of Zion's songs.' R.

O how could we sing
the song of the Lord
on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither! R.

O let me tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys! R.

SECOND READING A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The word of the Lord.

FOR
GOD
SO
LOVED THE WORLD
HE
GAVE
HIS
ONLY
SON

**Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son;
everyone who believes in him has eternal life.
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**

GOSPEL A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so that everyone who believes
may have eternal life in him.'

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

LAETARE SUNDAY – MOTHERS DAY

Yes, God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but
may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world
not to condemn the world,
but so that through him the world might be saved.
No one who believes in him will be condemned;
but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,
because he has refused to believe
in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced:
that though the light has come into the world
men have shown they prefer
darkness to the light
because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong
hates the light and avoids it,
for fear his actions should be exposed;
but the man who lives by the truth
comes out into the light,
so that it may be plainly seen
that what he does is done in God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord
(All Bow until Mary)
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

The 4th Sunday of Lent Year B presents a profound
reflection on themes of longing for restoration,
God's mercy and grace, the dichotomy between light
and darkness, and God's unwavering love for

humanity. These readings invite us to contemplate
our own lives in light of God's enduring patience and
willingness to forgive. They challenge us to recognize
our transgressions yet reassure us of the possibility
of repentance and returning to God's grace. Through
the narrative of the Babylonian exile and the words
of Jesus in John 3, we are reminded of the
transformative power of belief and the hope that lies
in restoration.

Longing for restoration - Despite the reality of
judgment and punishment, the readings for the 4th
Sunday of Lent Year B also emphasize the possibility
of repentance and restoration. In 2 Chronicles 36,
the Babylonian exile is seen as a time of purging and
purification, and God later allows the people to
return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. In John
3, Jesus speaks of the possibility of eternal life
through belief in him.

God's mercy and grace - The readings also
emphasize God's mercy and grace towards
humanity, despite our sinfulness. In the first reading,
God is patient and long-suffering towards the
people, giving them many chances to repent and
turn back to him. In the gospel, Jesus speaks of God's
love for the world, and his willingness to give his
only son as a sacrifice for our sins. St Paul is at his
most sublime, it is by grace that we are saved even
when dead through our sins.

Light and darkness - In John 3, Jesus speaks of the
contrast between light and darkness, using light as a
metaphor for truth and righteousness, and darkness
as a metaphor for sin and ignorance.

God's love for humanity - The readings also
emphasize God's love for humanity, despite our
sinfulness. In 2 Chronicles 36, God is patient towards
the people, even as they rebel against him. In John 3,
Jesus speaks of God's love for the world, and his
willingness to give his only son as a sacrifice for our
sins. St Paul pictures us as God's masterpiece
created in Christ to live like Jesus in the world.

*We are saved by grace,
which is received through faith
and lived out in love.*

Laetare - Rejoice