

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2019

### First Reading

Isaiah 12:1–6

#### The Book of The Prophet Isaiah

<sup>12</sup>You will say in that day:  
I will give thanks to you, O LORD,  
for though you were angry with me,  
your anger turned away,  
and you comforted me.

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation;  
I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might;  
he has become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup> With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.<sup>4</sup> And you will  
say in that day:  
Give thanks to the LORD,  
call on his name;  
make known his deeds among the nations;  
proclaim that his name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup> Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.

<sup>6</sup> Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

### Psalm 32

<sup>1</sup> Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven:  
whose sin is covered.

<sup>2</sup> Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity:  
and in whose spirit, there is no deceit.

<sup>3</sup> While I kept silence:  
my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup> For day and night your hand was heavy upon me:  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

- <sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you:  
and I did not hide my iniquity;  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"  
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.
- <sup>6</sup> Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you:  
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach  
them.
- <sup>7</sup> You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble:  
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.
- <sup>8</sup> I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go:  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
- <sup>9</sup> Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding:  
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle; else it will not  
stay near you.
- <sup>10</sup> Many are the torments of the wicked:  
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.
- <sup>11</sup> Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous:  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

## **EPISTLE**

**2 Corinthians 5:16–21**

### **The First Letter of Paul The Apostle to The Corinthians**

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## Gospel

Luke 15:1–3, 11–32

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke  
**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>15</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him.

<sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable:

<sup>11</sup> Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons.<sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So, he divided his property between them.<sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.<sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need.<sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs.<sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.<sup>17</sup> But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger!<sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you;<sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’<sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.<sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’<sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.<sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it and let us eat and celebrate;<sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.<sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on.<sup>27</sup> He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’<sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.<sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.<sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed

the fatted calf for him!<sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.’<sup>2</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Sentence**

God had reconciled us to himself through Christ, and given us the ministry of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5.18

### **Prayer of the day**

God of compassion,  
you are slow to anger, and full of mercy,  
welcoming sinners who return to you with penitent hearts:  
receive in your loving embrace all who come home to you,  
and seat them at your bountiful table,  
that, with all your children,  
they may feast with delight on all that satisfies  
the hungry heart.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

### **Supplementary Readings**

Genesis 22.1-14

Psalm 125

Luke 23.1-25

### **Prayer Response**

Lord, we turn to you.

**Enfold us in your peace.**