

ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 27 MARCH 2022

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Year C



What can you say "thank you" for today?



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

COLLECT

O God, who through your Word
reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way,
grant, we pray,
that with prompt devotion and eager faith
the Christian people may hasten
toward the solemn celebrations to come...



FIRST READING JOSHUA 5:9-12

The people of Israel
celebrate their arrival in
the promised land with a
Passover meal. Their many
years of wandering in the
desert are over. They no
longer need the manna,
the bread from heaven,
that God has been

sending to keep them
going. Now they can eat
the corn and unleavened
bread grown in the
promised land of Canaan.
From now on, everything
they need will come from
Canaan. A new chapter is
beginning.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 33

Taste and see that the Lord is good.



SECOND READING 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-21

God is making us new.
Each one of us is in the
process of growing to
be better, kinder, more
loving people – and it is
God who is working in us.
God the Father has sent
Jesus to make it possible

for us to have a good and
loving relationship with
him. God does not hold
our faults against us. God
has forgiven us, so we can
forgive others. With Jesus'
help we can all shine with
God's goodness.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!
I will leave this place and go to my father and say:
"Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you."
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!

We say these words
or sing a hymn as the
priest approaches
the altar.

We ask for God's help.
Listen now to the
priest as he offers
this prayer.

LOOK at the reader
and LISTEN.
The Israelites have a
new start in the land
of Canaan.

The cantor or psalmist
sings or says the psalm.
Listen to the verses,
and then respond by
using these words.

LOOK at the reader
and LISTEN.
Jesus has reconciled
us with God the
Father.

We give a shout of
praise to God, using
these words taken
from the Bible.



DO YOU KNOW?

The **sacrament of reconciliation**, or **confession**, is a **sacrament of second chances**. God the Father is waiting to tell us that **we are forgiven** and give us a new start. Find out when you can go to the **sacrament of reconciliation** before Easter.



THINK

Who do you think you are in the Gospel story? Jesus tells us that **God is the patient father**, waiting for us to realise just how much we are loved. Maybe I am the **selfish son** who takes the love of his family for granted, just wanting my own way? Or perhaps I am the **elder son** who is cross when someone else is noticed more than me? **What can I learn from this story today?**





GOSPEL LUKE 15:1-3. 11-32

The Good News about Jesus is told to us by St Luke.

This younger son really is selfish. He just wants to go and have a good time. In doing so he wastes not only the money his father gives to him, but also the love of his family. It's not until he is hungry and desperate that the son

realises the mistakes he has made. But the son has a good plan of action: he will go home, say he is sorry and aim to put it right. Nothing more is needed. This is just what his loving father has been waiting for – and it's party time!

STAND to LISTEN

to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel.

Before he reads the Gospel, what does the priest or deacon do to his forehead, his lips and his heart? Can you copy him?

Listen to the reader as he or she encourages us to pray for situations and people in need. This is a prayer you could say privately.



PRAY

"He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms..."

Spend a moment sitting quietly. Let God's love wrap around you. Know that nothing you do will ever stop God from loving you.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I would like to pray for families where people have fallen out. Help them to want to understand each other and to remember what real love means. Lord, hear my prayer.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think about any time this week when you were selfish and then think about all the times when you were loving and thought of other people.

Say a little prayer offering these thoughts up to God.

Watch as the gifts are made ready and the priest washes his hands and prepares for the Eucharistic Prayer.



DO

Can you show someone how much they mean to you by celebrating with a card or a cake?



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Today's special prayer thanks God for fulfilling all God's promises to us.

What can you give special thanks for today?

We listen to the prayer of praise and thanks to God.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the priest extends his hands, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.

You are invited to sing a Communion song or say this verse, which has been especially chosen for today's celebration.



MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, Jesus, for loving me. Thank you for giving me second chances and always letting me try again. Amen.



ΙΧΘΥΣ

is the Greek word for "fish" and was used in the catacombs as a sign for early Christians. It is made up from the first letter of five Greek titles for the Lord:

- I (Jesus)
- X (Christos)
- Θ (Theou/God's)
- Υ (Uios/Son)
- Σ (Soter/Saviour)

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We take Jesus with us to carry on the work that he did on earth, until we meet again next Sunday.

Go in peace.

