

Ash Wednesday (Year C)

First Reading - Daniel 9.3-6, 17-19

A reading from the book of Daniel.

With Jerusalem lying in ruins,

I, Daniel, turned to the Lord God
to plead in prayer,
with fasting,
and in sackcloth
and ashes.

And I prayed

to the Lord my God,
making confession, and saying,
'O Lord, great and awesome God,
you keep your covenant, in steadfast love,
towards those who
love you, and keep your commandments.

But we have sinned, and done wrong.

We have acted wickedly, and rebelled.

We have turned aside

from your commandments and decrees.

We have not listened to your servants

the prophets, who have spoken in your name,
in every generation.

O Lord our God, hear the prayer of your servant;

and for your own sake, O Lord,

look with pity
upon the desolate ruins
of your holy temple.

Hear my cry, O Lord our God,

and look upon the desolation
of the people, and the city,
that bear your name.

In this our plea, we trust not

in our righteousness,
but in your great mercy.

Hear, O Lord, and forgive;

and for your own sake, O Lord my God,
act, and do not delay;
for the city, and the people,
bear your name.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Philippians 2.12-15

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

I know that you have

continued to trust
in all that I was able to teach you
while I was with you,

and that you continue

to commit yourselves
to walking in the way of salvation.

Always do so with humility, honouring

both the power
and the majesty of God.

For it is God who is

at work within you:

it is God who gives you

both the desire
and the strength
to do God's will.

So avoid

complaint and dispute,

and you will be innocent and uncorrupted

children of God,

shining as lights

in the darkness of this

wicked and corrupt

generation.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 8.2-11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

Early in the morning,

Jesus came again to the temple.

All the people

gathered around him,

and he sat down, and began to teach them.

Then the scribes and the Pharisees

brought to him

a woman who had been

caught in adultery;

and making her stand there,

in front of all the people,

they said to Jesus,

'Teacher, this woman was caught

in the very act

of committing adultery.

In the law, Moses commanded us

to stone

such women.

What do you say?'

They said this

to test Jesus,

so that they might have some charge

to bring against him.

Jesus bent down,

and wrote, with his finger, on the ground.

As they kept on questioning him,

he straightened up

and said to them,

'Let the one who is

without sin

cast the first stone.'

And once again,

he bent down

and wrote on the ground.

Having heard these words

they went away,

one by one,

beginning with the eldest,

until Jesus was left alone

with the woman standing there.

Jesus straightened up

and said to her, 'Where are they?

Has no one

condemned you?'

She said, 'No one, sir.'

And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you.

Go on your way,

and do not sin again.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.