

Sunday 7 March 2027

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year B)

First Reading - 2 Chronicles 36.14-23

A reading from the Second Book of Chronicles.

The priests, and the people,
became unfaithful.

They followed the evil ways of other nations,
even in the house of the Lord, in Jerusalem.

But the Lord God, the God of their ancestors,
had compassion upon them,
and repeatedly
sent messengers amongst them.

But the people mocked and rejected
the prophets and messengers of God,
despising their words.

Finally, the displeasure of the Lord
was so great, that the Lord
brought up against them
the army
of the king of Babylon.

The invading army
killed their young men with the sword,
even in the temple,
and had no compassion,
even on the old and the weak.

Both the temple
and the palace
were burned to the ground,
and their treasures were taken away to Babylon;
and the city walls were broken down.

Those who escaped from the sword
were taken away as prisoners, to Babylon,
and were made servants
of the king of Babylon.

Then Jerusalem lay desolate
for seventy years,
fulfilling all the sabbaths it had missed,
in fulfilment of the word of the Lord
by the prophet Jeremiah;

until, in the first year
of the new kingdom of Persia,
the Lord moved the heart
of Cyrus, the king of Persia,
to make this declaration:

'The Lord, the God of heaven,
has given me all the kingdoms of the earth,
and has appointed me to build, for the Lord,
a temple at Jerusalem;
so let all the Lord's people
return to Jerusalem,
and may the Lord your God be with you.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Ephesians 2.1-10

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

When we lived by the rules of this present world,
filled with the spirit of disobedience,
following the desires
only of the body and the senses,
we were dead
in trespass and sin.

But in great love, and mercy,

God raised us up
to new life,
with Christ, and in Christ,
and to heaven itself;
so that all may see,
now and for all time,
the infinite riches
of God's grace towards us
in Jesus Christ.

For it is by God's grace
that we have been saved,
through faith.

Our salvation is not our own doing,
as if it were some achievement,
of which we might boast.

No, our salvation is the gift of God, who has
re-made us,
in Christ Jesus,
for the good works
that have been prepared for us.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 3.16-21

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

God so loved the world
that God gave
the only Son of God,
so that everyone
who believes
in the Son of God
will not be lost,
but will have
everlasting life.

For God sent the Son into the world
not as judge,
but as saviour;
and those who believe
in the Son of God
are no longer under judgement;
but those who do not believe
remain under judgement,
for the light has come into the world,
and those who
do not believe
have loved darkness
more than light.

Because their deeds
are evil,
they hide from the light,
out of fear
that their evil deeds
will be exposed.

But those whose deeds
are honest, and true,
come to the light,
and the light reveals
that God is in
the good deeds
that they do.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.