

GOD SPEAKS HIS WORD

FIRST READING



Isaiah 43:16-21

¹⁶Thus says the LORD, who opens a way in the sea and a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷Who leads out chariots and horsemen, a powerful army, Till they lie prostrate together, never to rise, snuffed out and quenched like a wick. ¹⁸Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; ¹⁹See, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? In the desert I make a way, in the wasteland, rivers. ²⁰Wild beasts honor me, jackals and ostriches, For I put water in the desert and rivers in the wasteland for my chosen people to drink, ²¹The people whom I formed for myself, that they might announce my praise.

PSALM



Psalms 126:1-6

¹A song of ascents. I When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then we thought we were dreaming. ²Our mouths were filled with laughter; our tongues sang for joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The LORD had done great things for them." ³The LORD has done great things for us; Oh, how happy we were! ⁴Restore again our fortunes, LORD, like the dry stream beds of the Negeb. ⁵Those who sow in tears will reap with cries of joy. ⁶Those who go forth weeping, carrying sacks of seed, Will return with cries of joy, carrying their bundled sheaves.

SECOND READING



Philippians 3:8-14

⁸More than that, I even consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having any righteousness of my own based on the law but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God, depending on faith ¹⁰to know him and the power of his resurrection and (the) sharing of his sufferings by being conformed to his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹²It is not that I have already taken hold of it or have already attained perfect maturity, but I continue my pursuit in hope that I may possess it, since I have indeed been taken possession of by Christ (Jesus). ¹³Brothers, I for my part do not consider myself to have taken possession. Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL



John 8:1-11

¹While Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ²But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area, and all the people started coming to him, and he sat down and taught them. ³Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle. ⁴They said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. ⁵Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" ⁶They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. ⁷But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸Again he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹And in

response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him. ¹⁰Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" ¹¹She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, (and) from now on do not sin any more."

Vestment Color: Violet

GOSPEL REFLECTION

MIND YOUR OWN SIN. Jesus Christ invited the sinless person in the crowd to be the first to throw a stone at the adulterous woman. In our daily lives, we tend to be critical of other people's wrongdoings. By focusing on other people's sins, we fail to notice our own sins, and we become self-righteous and quick to judge others.

When my spouse seldom sinned because of my physical deficiencies brought about by breast cancer, I felt devastated and started to hate him. I always considered him dirty, but after some time, through continuous prayer, I learned to accept the situation. God reminded me that I am not sinless. I remember those times when I was begging God to heal me from cancer. It was then that I surrendered all my sins; especially that of my being unforgiving.

When we confess and ask God to forgive our sins, deep in our hearts, we should strive to avoid committing the same sins in the future. We should be watchful of ourselves all the time, exerting effort to avoid sins and also, to avoid judging others because of their sins. By doing this, we become true followers of Christ.

Have we been more critical of other people's sins than ours?

PERSONAL RESPONSE
