

FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Wednesday – 1 April 2020

Entrance Antiphon

My deliverer from angry nations, you set me above my assailants; you saved me from the violent man, O Lord.

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Daniel

He has sent his angel to rescue his servants.

King, ‘Shadrach,, is it true that you do not serve my gods, and that you refuse to worship the golden statue I have erected? When you hear the sound of horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, or any other instrument, are you prepared to prostrate yourselves and worship the statue I have made? If you refuse to worship it, you must be thrown straight away into the burning fiery furnace; and where is the god who could save you from my power?’, to King, ‘Your question hardly requires an answer: if our God, the one we serve, is able to save us from the burning fiery furnace and from your power, O king, he will save us; and even if he does not, then you must know, O king, that we will not serve your god or worship the statue you have erected.’ These words infuriated King; his expression was very different now as he looked at. He gave orders for the furnace to be made seven times hotter than usual, and commanded certain stalwarts from his army to bind, throw them into the burning fiery furnace.

Then King to his feet in amazement. He said to his advisers, ‘Did we not have these three men thrown bound into the fire?’ They replied, ‘Certainly, O king. ‘But,’ he went on, ‘I can see four men walking about freely in the heart of the fire without coming to any harm. And the fourth looks like a son of the gods.’

Nebuchadnezzar exclaimed, ‘Blessed be the God of, and: he has sent his angel to rescue his servants who, putting their trust in him, defied the order of the king, and preferred to forfeit their bodies rather than serve or worship any god but their own.’

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Glory and praise for ever!

You are blest, Lord God of our fathers. **(R.)**

Blest your glorious holy name. **(R.)**

You are blest in the temple of your glory. **(R.)**

You are blest on the throne of your kingdom. **(R.)**

You are blest who gaze into the depths. **(R.)**

You are blest in the firmament of heaven. **(R.)**

Gospel Acclamation

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Happy are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and yield a harvest through perseverance.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

If the Son of Man makes you free, you will be free indeed.

To the Jews who believed in him Jesus said:

‘If you make my word your home you will indeed be my disciples, you will learn the truth and the truth will make you free.’

They answered, ‘We are descended from we have never been the slaves of anyone; what do you mean, “You will be made free”?’ Jesus replied:

‘I tell you most solemnly, everyone who commits sin is a slave. Now the slave’s place in the house is not assured, but the son’s place is assured. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are descended from; but in spite of that you want to kill me because nothing I say has penetrated into you. What I, for my part, speak of is what I have seen with my Father; but you, you put into action the lessons learnt from your father.’

They repeated, ‘Our father is Abraham.’ Jesus said to them:

‘If you were Abraham’s children, you would do as. As it is, you want to kill me when I tell you the truth as I have learnt it from God; that is not what. What you are doing is what your father does.’

‘We were not born of prostitution,’ they went on ‘we have one father:

God.’ Jesus answered: ‘If God were your father, you would love me, since I have come here from God; yes, I have come from him; not that I came because I chose, no, I was sent, and by him.’

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Antiphon

God has brought us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption through his Blood, the forgiveness of sins.