

Tuesday of the Second Week of Lent

Lectionary: 231

Reading 1

Isaiah 1:10, 16-20

Hear the word of the LORD,
princes of Sodom!
Listen to the instruction of our God,
people of Gomorrah!

Wash yourselves clean!
Put away your misdeeds from before my eyes;
cease doing evil; learn to do good.
Make justice your aim: redress the wronged,
hear the orphan's plea, defend the widow.

Come now, let us set things right,
says the LORD:
Though your sins be like scarlet,
they may become white as snow;
Though they be crimson red,
they may become white as wool.
If you are willing, and obey,
you shall eat the good things of the land;
But if you refuse and resist,
the sword shall consume you:
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken!

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23

R. (23b) To the upright I will show the saving power of God.

"Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you,
for your burnt offerings are before me always.
I take from your house no bullock,
no goats out of your fold."

R. To the upright I will show the saving power of God.

"Why do you recite my statutes,
and profess my covenant with your mouth,
Though you hate discipline
and cast my words behind you?"

R. To the upright I will show the saving power of God.

"When you do these things, shall I be deaf to it?
Or do you think that I am like yourself?
I will correct you by drawing them up before your eyes.
He that offers praise as a sacrifice glorifies me;
and to him that goes the right way I will show the salvation of
God."

R. To the upright I will show the saving power of God.

Verse Before the Gospel

Ezekiel 18:31

Cast away from you all the crimes you have committed, says
the LORD,
and make for yourselves a new heart and a new spirit.

Gospel

Matthew 23:1-12

Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying,
"The scribes and the Pharisees
have taken their seat on the chair of Moses.
Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you,
but do not follow their example.
For they preach but they do not practice.
They tie up heavy burdens hard to carry
and lay them on people's shoulders,
but they will not lift a finger to move them.
All their works are performed to be seen.
They widen their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels.
They love places of honor at banquets, seats of honor in
synagogues,
greetings in marketplaces, and the salutation 'Rabbi.'
As for you, do not be called 'Rabbi.'
You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers.
Call no one on earth your father;
you have but one Father in heaven.
Do not be called 'Master';
you have but one master, the Christ.
The greatest among you must be your servant.
Whoever exalts himself will be humbled;
but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

Homily.

Let us reflect today on Jesus' charitable words to the scribes and Pharisees. First, hear Jesus' words spoken to us. Humble ourselves so that we are open to such loving rebukes. Allow ourselves to become more aware of our pride and self-righteousness so that we can change. Also, be open to how God might want to use us to confront others charitably. While Jesus alone is the Judge, He

sometimes uses us as instruments of His judgment for those open to hearing His voice through us. Humbly consider this role, allowing God to use us as He wills. Always speak with gentleness and love, imparting the hard truth another needs to hear, never with cruelty or harshness.

Amen.