

Psalm 89

Why did God let this to happen to me? That's something we have all said at one time, trying to understand why something bad has happened to us. After defeat in battle, King David asks God why He had allowed his enemies to defeat him. Kings represented their people, so this is also a national lament. Had God given up on Israel? Where was God? David remembers they made an agreement, their covenant, when God promised David he would be like a Father to David's son, Solomon, who would one day build a Temple for Him to live in. (2 Samuel :7:17) David's dynasty would be eternal.

The psalmist, in the person of King David, asks God to keep His side of their covenant. God chose and anointed David, promising to love and support him always. (vs 19-37). Even if David's children strayed, God promised He would be faithful to His agreement. (vs. 29-35). Had God changed his mind and broken this sacred agreement, (vs 38 ff) allowing David's enemies to triumph against him? (vs 39-45)

Like many of us in trouble, David wonders how long it will last. He asks God to restore the loving relationship they had once shared. Then his enemies, who were taunting him after his defeat, would be silenced. David finishes by praising God – perhaps indicating he realises God always remains faithful to His word.

Elements of the Mass

Preparation before Mass

It is important that we prepare for each Mass we attend. The priest celebrating the Mass will also prepare himself. He will say prayers in the sacristy as he puts on his vestments and will say prayers of preparation before approaching the altar. You might want to think about the way in which you prepare for Mass. It is a good thing to arrive at church early and to take your place in a seat. It is important to try not to get distracted. This means we should avoid unnecessary conversations with people. We should concentrate on preparing for what is to come. You might say private prayers for people or situations in your own life, you might want to pray for events in the church and the world further afield. If you do find yourself getting distracted why not try reading passages from the Bible, perhaps an account of the Last Supper or you might read through the Mass readings for the celebration you are attending. You might also consider buying a small book of prayers you can easily bring to church in order to focus your prayers and devotions before Mass. You might even consider collecting prayers together in a notebook to help you.

28th June
2020

The Third Sunday
after Trinity
13th Sunday
of the Year

Welcome



“By the love of thy Cross, O Jesu, I live, and that I will only glory, that above all things will I study, that before all things I will value; by the love of thy Cross I will take up my cross, daily and follow thee, I will persecute and torment and crucify my sinful affections and lusts, which persecuted, tormented and crucified thee; and if thy Love calls me to it, I will suffer on the cross for thee, as thou hast done for me.” – These words by Thomas Ken describe a spiritual and prayerful rootedness in Christ which should underpin all our actions. Our relationships come to life when we invite the Lord to be at the centre of them. Our service to others is enriched when we serve the person of Christ in them and not merely perform a duty. We welcome Christ when we welcome each other. But our discipleship comes at a cost. We cannot follow his example without accepting our cross. Welcoming Christ into our lives changes everything.

From the Fathers

God gave his own Son the ransom for us...for what, save his righteousness, could cover our sins. In whom was it possible that we, transgressors and ungodly as we were, could be justified, save in the Son of God alone?

From 'Letter to Diognetus', by Justin Martyr (c. 100-165, theologian)