

PRAYER SERVICE

Chapter 3–The Coming of the Messiah

Jesus Christ: Source of Our Salvation

THEME

First Reader:

Lord Jesus, your name means “God Saves.” You have many titles: “Messiah,” “Only Son of God,” “Anointed One,” “Priest, Prophet and King.”

Your identity and mission are revealed to us through your name and titles. You are the Incarnate Word of God, the God-Man whose has saved the world.

Through deepening our relationship with you, increasing our knowledge of your redemptive life, may we come a greater understanding of our personal identity and mission known to you from the beginning of time.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 53:1–5

Reader One:

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

Who would believe what we have heard?

To whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

He grew up like a sapling before him,
like a shoot from the parched earth;
He had no majestic bearing to catch our eye,
no beauty to draw us to him.

He was spurned and avoided by men,
a man of suffering, knowing pain,
Like one from whom you turn your face,
spurned, and we held him in no esteem.

Yet it was our pain that he bore,
our sufferings he endured.

We thought of him as stricken,
struck down by God and afflicted,
But he was pierced for our sins,
crushed for our iniquity.

He bore the punishment that makes us whole,
by his wounds we were healed.

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 98

Response: We praise you and worship You, O Lord.

Sing a new song to the LORD,

for he has done marvelous deeds.

His right hand and holy arm

have won the victory.

Response: We praise you and worship You, O Lord.

The LORD has made his victory known;

has revealed his triumph in the sight of the nations,

He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness

toward the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen

the victory of our God.

Response: We praise you and worship You, O Lord.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5–10

Reader Four:

A reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians

Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus,

Who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God something to be grasped.

Rather, he emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

coming in human likeness;

and found human in appearance,

he humbled himself,

becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly exalted him

and bestowed on him the name

that is above every name,

that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue confess that

Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John: 1–5, 14

Reader Five:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

In the beginning was the Word,

and the Word was with God,

and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things came to be through him,

and without him nothing came to be.

What came to be through him was life,

and this life was the light of the human race;

the light shines in the darkness,

and the darkness has not overcome it.

And the Word became flesh*

and made his dwelling among us,

and we saw his glory,

the glory as of the Father's only Son,

full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

MEDITATION

The students should simply listen and then write a response in their journals.

Reader Six:

Dear Jesus, sometimes I really don't know who I am. I wander around trying to impress others. I tell them about my latest success in school, or the athletic field. Or, other times I'm so afraid of being rejected and laughed that I do not even say a word. The latest thing seems like the greatest thing, so I just dive into things, head first, without really thinking—not really knowing where I'm going or who I

am, or what I want in life. But, I do know that sometimes I feel like there is a big hole in the middle of my heart! I'm beginning to realize that only YOU can fill it!

Lord, I need your help. You have created me. You know me better than anyone—even my parents or my best friend. When I am confused and mixed up, please come to me and straighten out my thinking. When appearance and status and winning the competition seem like the most important thing in the world, help me to realize that appearance, and what's on the surface is really not going to bring lasting happiness. In just a flash it can all be gone. When I feel rejected and not able to “measure up”, remind me that you will never abandon me and that for you I always “measure up” because you have made me in your image and likeness.

Happiness, Lord, is following you and being close to you. Your path leads to happiness. Lord, show me who I really am. Help me, Lord, know who I am in you. Give me the grace to be your follower, to stand up for you, for myself and for others when things are tough. Please help me to be the best person I can be. Help me, Lord, to love myself and see myself as you do, as a beautiful and Precious Child of God, fearfully and wonderfully made. Thank you, Lord. I love you!

Write a response or your own prayer in your own words in this space.

-----*In the space below write your own “Mission Statement.” Ask the Lord*

*to show you what pursuits he would like you to add to your mission statement.
Take a few minutes to do this.*

PETITIONS

Reader Seven:

Response: Hear me, Lord.

That I may enjoy the good things of the earth, but knowing at the same time that they can never be the true source of happiness.

Response: Hear me, Lord.

That I may develop a desire to read the Word of God daily and find it my true source of nourishment.

Response: Hear me, Lord.

That I may appreciate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and attend it regularly.

Response: Hear me, Lord.

That I may savor a relationship with you, Lord and deepen my prayer life.

Response: Hear me, Lord.

That I may cultivate an attitude of gratitude for all the many gifts and talents you have bestowed upon me.

Response: Hear me, Lord.

That I may be a source of life for others, as you, Lord have been a source of life for me.

Response: Hear me, Lord.

CLOSING PRAYER

Reader Eight:

Dear Blessed Mother, from the beginning of time the Father had chosen you to be the Mother of God and the Mother of the Church. Therefore, you are my Mother, too. Please intercede for me so that I may stand firm in my belief in your Son, that I may know my true identity in Christ and be clearly aware of the mission – the purpose – God has for my life, so that I too, might say, “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” We ask this in the name of your Son.

Response: Amen