

GOD SPEAKS HIS WORD

FIRST READING

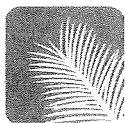
Jeremiah 31:31-34



³¹The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers the day I took them by the hand to lead them forth from the land of Egypt; for they broke my covenant and I had to show myself their master, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD. I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer will they have need to teach their friends and kinsmen how to know the LORD. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the LORD, for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more.

PSALM

Psalm 51:12-15, 18-19



¹²A clean heart create for me, God; renew in me a steadfast spirit. ¹³Do not drive me from your presence, nor take from me your holy spirit. ¹⁴Restore my joy in your salvation; sustain in me a willing spirit. ¹⁵I will teach the wicked your ways, that sinners may return to you. ¹⁸For you do not desire sacrifice; a burnt offering you would not accept. ¹⁹My sacrifice, God, is a broken spirit; God, do not spurn a broken, humbled heart.

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13-23



¹³When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. ¹⁸And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Messiah. ²¹From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²²Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you." ²³He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

Vestment Color: Green

GOSPEL REFLECTION

PASSING GRADE. It must be a real solo performance for Peter being praised and trusted by Jesus Himself when Jesus chose him to be the foundation of His Church and entrusted him with the keys to heaven. Peter must have gotten a perfect grade here. What happened next is a complete reverse, when Jesus referred to Peter as Satan after Peter suddenly panicked with the thought of losing his Master, the very person he loved. Peter scored zero, no doubt that he lost his focus on Jesus and shifted to his own needs instead.

Many of us were put to test with the onslaught of typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng. Grief and shock abounded with the loss of family members and precious belongings. This must be nature's way of loosening our grip to earthly attachments, to get rid of everything that gets in the way until only Jesus is left. For now, we may not understand why lives perished and hard-earned properties were destroyed. We only have to trust God that everything will turn out right in His perfect time.

*Have we rid ourselves of anything
that gets in the way of focusing on Jesus?*

PERSONAL RESPONSE

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