

# Judice Sunday

## My Dear Christian Friends,

With our worship canceled due to the Corona Virus, I wanted to take the opportunity to again record my sermon for our Lenten period.

Today is a Sunday of Justice, which is what Judice means in Latin. But it also means judgment – a judgment of what is right or wrong in God's eyes, not man's eyes. Following is our scriptural readings for this Sunday.

### Old Testament: Isaiah 49:8-13

The Restoration of Israel

**8** Thus says the Lord:

“In a time of favor I have answered you;  
in a day of salvation I have helped you;

I will keep you and give you  
as a covenant to the people,

to establish the land,  
to apportion the desolate heritages,

**9** saying to the prisoners, ‘Come out,’  
to those who are in darkness, ‘Appear.’

They shall feed along the ways;  
on all bare heights shall be their pasture;

**10** they shall not hunger or thirst,  
neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them,  
for he who has pity on them will lead them,  
and by springs of water will guide them.

**11** And I will make all my mountains a road,  
and my highways shall be raised up.

**12** Behold, these shall come from afar,  
and behold, these from the north and from the west,[a]  
and these from the land of Syene.”[b]

**13** Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;  
break forth, O mountains, into singing!

For the Lord has comforted his people  
and will have compassion on his afflicted.

### Psalm: 132:8-18

- 8** Arise, O Lord, and go to your resting place,  
you and the ark of your might.
- 9** Let your priests be clothed with righteousness,  
and let your saints shout for joy.
- 10** For the sake of your servant David,  
do not turn away the face of your anointed one.
- 11** The Lord swore to David a sure oath  
from which he will not turn back:  
"One of the sons of your body[a]  
I will set on your throne.
- 12** If your sons keep my covenant  
and my testimonies that I shall teach them,  
their sons also forever  
shall sit on your throne."
- 13** For the Lord has chosen Zion;  
he has desired it for his dwelling place:
- 14** "This is my resting place forever;  
here I will dwell, for I have desired it.
- 15** I will abundantly bless her provisions;  
I will satisfy her poor with bread.
- 16** Her priests I will clothe with salvation,  
and her saints will shout for joy.
- 17** There I will make a horn to sprout for David;  
I have prepared a lamp for my anointed.
- 18** His enemies I will clothe with shame,  
but on him his crown will shine."

### **Epistle: Acts 2:41-47**

41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

### **The Fellowship of the Believers**

**42** And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. **43** And awe[a] came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. **44** And all who believed were together and had all things in common. **45** And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as

any had need. **46** And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

### **Gospel: John 8:46-59**

**46** Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? **47** Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”

### **Before Abraham Was, I Am**

**48** The Jews answered him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” **49** Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. **50** Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. **51** Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” **52** The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ **53** Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?” **54** Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’[a] **55** But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. **56** Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” **57** So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?”[b] **58** Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” **59** So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.