



Milan Cathedral

FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Ambrosian Rite

The Dean and Chapter welcome you to the Metropolitan Cathedral of Santa Maria Nascente, the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Milan. The Cathedral welcomes you to the Holy Mass celebrated according to the Milanese Rite, also named Ambrosian after its main Patron, St. Ambrose (bishop of Milan from 374 to 397). This Rite has its own Calendar and the readings of this leaflet are taken from the Ambrosian Lectionary.

First Reading

Is 49: 24 - 50: 10

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah

Can plunder be taken from a warrior, or captives rescued from a tyrant? Thus says the Lord: "Yes, captives can be taken from a warrior, and plunder rescued from a tyrant; those who oppose you I will oppose, and your sons I will save. I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh, and they shall be drunk with their own blood as though with new wine. All flesh shall know that I, the Lord, am your savior, your redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob."

Thus says the Lord: "Where is the bill of divorce with which I dismissed your mother? Or to which of my creditors have I sold you? It was for your sins you were sold, for your rebellions your mother was dismissed. Why was no one there

when I came? Why did no one answer when I called? Is my hand too short to ransom? Have I not the strength to deliver? See, with my rebuke I dry up the sea, I turn rivers into wilderness; their fish rot for lack of water, and die of thirst. I clothe the heavens in black, and make sackcloth their covering." The Lord God has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to answer the weary a word that will waken them. Morning after morning he wakens my ear to hear as disciples do. The Lord God opened my ear; I did not refuse, did not turn away. I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who tore out my beard. My face I did not hide from insults and spitting.

The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; Therefore I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame. He who declares my innocence is near. Who will oppose me?

Let us appear together. Who will dispute my right? Let them confront me. See, the Lord God is my help; who will declare me guilty? See, they will all wear out like a garment, consumed by moths. Who among you fears the Lord, heeds his servant's voice? Whoever walk in darkness, without any light, yet trust in the name of the Lord and rely upon their God!

The word of the Lord.

Second Reading

Is 52: 13 - 53: 12

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord, "See, my servant shall prosper, he shall be raised high and greatly exalted. Even as many were amazed at him – so marred were his features, beyond that of mortals his appearance,

beyond that of human beings –. So shall he startle many nations, kings shall stand speechless; for those who have not been told shall see, those who have not heard shall ponder it.

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. We had all gone astray like sheep, all following our

own way; but the Lord laid upon him the guilt of us all. Though harshly treated, he submitted and did not open his mouth; like a lamb led to slaughter or a sheep silent before shearers, he did not open his mouth. Seized and condemned, he was taken away. Who would have thought any more of his destiny? For he was cut off from the land of the living, struck for the sins of his people.

He was given a grave among the wicked, a burial place with evildoers, though he had done no wrong, nor was deceit found in his mouth. But it was the Lord's will to crush him with pain. By making his life as a reparation offering, he shall see his offspring, shall lengthen his days, and the Lord's will shall be accomplished through him.

Because of his anguish he shall see the light; because of his knowledge he shall be content; my servant, the just one, shall justify the many, their iniquity he shall

bear. Therefore I will give him his portion among the many, and he shall divide the spoils with the mighty, because he surrendered himself to death, was counted among the transgressors, bore the sins of many, and interceded for the transgressors.”

The word of the Lord.

Gospel

Mt 27: 1-56

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

When it was morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate, the governor. Then Judas, his betrayer, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, deeply regret-

ted what he had done. He returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned in betraying innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? Look to it yourself." Flinging the money into the temple, he departed and went off and hanged himself. The chief priests gathered up the money, but said, "It is not lawful to deposit this in the temple treasury, for it is the price of blood." After consultation, they used it to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why that field even today is called the Field of Blood. Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of a man with a price on his head, a price set by some of the Israelites, and they paid it out for the potter's field just as the Lord had commanded me."

Now Jesus stood before the governor, and he questioned him, "Are you the

king of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." And when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they are testifying against you?" But he did not answer him one word, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now on the occasion of the feast the governor was accustomed to release to the crowd one prisoner whom they wished. And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had assembled, Pilate said to them, "Which one do you want me to release to you, Barabbas, or Jesus called Messiah?" For he knew that it was out of envy that they had handed him over.

While he was still seated on the bench, his wife sent him a message, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man. I suffered much in a dream today because of him."

The chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas but to destroy Jesus. The governor said to them in reply, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They answered, "Barabbas!" Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus called Messiah?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" But he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" They only shouted the louder, "Let him be crucified!"

When Pilate saw that he was not succeeding at all, but that a riot was breaking out instead, he took water and washed his hands in the sight of the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood. Look to it yourselves." And the whole people said in reply, "His blood be upon us and upon our children." Then he released Barabbas to them, but after he had Jesus scourged, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside the praetorium and gath-

ered the whole cohort around him. They stripped off his clothes and threw a scarlet military cloak about him. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat upon him and took the reed and kept striking him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him off to crucify him.

As they were going out, they met a Cyrenian named Simon; this man they pressed into service to carry his cross.

And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of the Skull), they gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall. But when he had tasted it, he refused to drink. After they had crucified him, they divided his garments by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And they placed

over his head the written charge against him: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and the other on his left. Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, if you are the Son of God, and come down from the cross!" Likewise the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him and said, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. So he is the king of Israel! Let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now if he wants him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" The revolutionaries who were crucified with him also kept abusing him in the same way. From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sa-

bachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "This one is calling for Elijah." Immediately one of them ran to get a sponge; he soaked it in wine, and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. But the rest said, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save him." But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit.

Here all kneel and pause for a short time.

And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many.

The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared

greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said, "Truly, this was the Son of God!" There were many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him. Among them were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

THE DEPOSITION OF THE LORD

First Reading

Dn 3: 1-24

A reading from the Book of the prophet Daniel

In those days. King Nebuchadnezzar had a golden statue made, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, which he set up in the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. He then ordered the satraps, prefects, and governors, the counselors, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the officials of the provinces to be summoned to the dedication of the statue which he had set up. The satraps, prefects, and governors, the counselors, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the officials of the provinces came together

for the dedication and stood before the statue which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. A herald cried out: "Nations and peoples of every language, when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, zither, dulcimer, harp, double-flute, and all the other musical instruments, you must fall down and worship the golden statue which King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship shall be instantly cast into a white-hot furnace."

Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, pipe, zither, dulcimer, harp, double-flute, and all the other musical instruments, the nations and peoples of every language all fell down and worshiped the golden statue which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

At that point, some of the Chaldeans came and accused the Jews to King Nebuchadnezzar: "O king, live forever! O king, you issued a decree that everyone who

heard the sound of the horn, pipe, zither, dulcimer, harp, and double-flute, and all the other musical instruments should fall down and worship the golden statue; whoever did not was to be cast into a white-hot furnace. There are certain Jews whom you have made administrators of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have paid no attention to you; they will not serve your god or worship the golden statue which you set up."

Nebuchadnezzar flew into a rage and sent for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who were promptly brought before the king. King Nebuchadnezzar questioned them: "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you will not serve my god, or worship the golden statue that I set up? Now, if you are ready to fall down and worship the statue I made, whenever you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, zither, dulcimer, harp, double-flute, and

all the other musical instruments, then all will be well; if not, you shall be instantly cast into the white-hot furnace; and who is the God who can deliver you out of my hands?"

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered King Nebuchadnezzar, "There is no need for us to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If our God, whom we serve, can save us from the white-hot furnace and from your hands, O king, may he save us! But even if he will not, you should know, O king, that we will not serve your god or worship the golden statue which you set up."

Nebuchadnezzar's face became livid with utter rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace to be heated seven times more than usual and had some of the strongest men in his army bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and cast them into the white-hot furnace. They were bound

and cast into the white-hot furnace with their trousers, shirts, hats and other garments, for the king's order was urgent. So huge a fire was kindled in the furnace that the flames devoured the men who threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into it. But these three fell, bound, into the midst of the white-hot furnace. They walked about in the flames, singing to God and blessing the Lord.

Cantus

Dn 3: 51-52. 54. 57. 59. 58. 61. 84-88b. 88c-f

Then these three in the furnace
with one voice sang,
glorifying and blessing God:
"Blessed are you, O Lord,
the God of our ancestors,
praiseworthy and exalted
above all forever;

R Amen.

And blessed is your holy
and glorious name,
praiseworthy and exalted
above all for all ages.

R Amen.

Blessed are you on the throne
of your kingdom,
praiseworthy and exalted
above all forever.

R Amen.

Bless the Lord,
all you works of the Lord,
praise and exalt him
above all forever.

R Amen.

You heavens, bless the Lord,
praise and exalt him
above all forever.

R Amen.

Angels of the Lord, bless the Lord,
praise and exalt him
above all forever.

R Amen.

All you powers, bless the Lord;
praise and exalt him
above all forever.

R Amen.

Priests of the Lord, bless the Lord;
praise and exalt him
above all forever.

R Amen.

Servants of the Lord, bless the Lord;
praise and exalt him
above all forever.

R Amen.

Spirits and souls of the just,
bless the Lord;
praise and exalt him
above all forever.

R Amen.

Holy and humble of heart,
bless the Lord;
praise and exalt him
above all forever.

R Amen.

Hananiah, Azariah, Mishael,
bless the Lord;
praise and exalt him
above all forever.

R Amen.

We bless the Father and the Son
and the Holy Spirit;
praise and exalt him
above all forever.

R Amen.

For he has delivered us from Sheol,
and saved us from the power of death;
he has freed us from the raging flame
and delivered us from the fire.

R Give thanks to the Lord,
who is good,
whose mercy endures forever.”

Second Reading

Dn 3: 91-100

A reading from the Book of the prophet Daniel

Then King Nebuchadnezzar was startled and rose in haste, asking his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" "Certainly, O king," they answered. "But," he replied, "I see four men unbound and unhurt, walking in the fire, and the fourth looks like a son of God." Then Nebuchadnezzar came to the opening of the white-hot furnace and called: "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out." Thereupon Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the fire. When the satraps, prefects, governors, and counselors of the king came together, they saw that the fire had had no power over the bodies of these men; not a hair of their heads had been singed, nor were their

garments altered; there was not even a smell of fire about them.

Nebuchadnezzar exclaimed, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who sent his angel to deliver the servants that trusted in him; they disobeyed the royal command and yielded their bodies rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. Therefore I decree for nations and peoples of every language that whoever blasphemes the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be cut to pieces and his house made into a refuse heap. For there is no other God who can rescue like this."

Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

King Nebuchadnezzar to the nations and peoples of every language, wherever they dwell on earth: "May your peace abound! It has seemed good to me to publish the signs and wonders which the Most High

God has accomplished in my regard. How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders; his kingship is an everlasting kingship, and his dominion endures through all generations.”

Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ

Mt 27: 57-61

Continuation of the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed. But Mary Magdalene and the other Mary remained sitting there, facing the tomb.

The Holy Church celebrates the Risen Lord. The Cathedral keeps magnificent works of art and treasures the relics of many holy bishops; we mention here only St. Carlo Borromeo (1538-1584), and the Blessed Archbishops Andrea Carlo Ferrari (1850-1921) and Alfredo Ildefonso Schuster (1880-1954).

Veneranda Fabbrica del Duomo di Milano

Image: Milan, Duomo Museum,
tapestry, 15th cent.



DUOMO DI MILANO