

Third Sunday of Lent: The First Scrutiny

Introduction

[After the homily]

Rodney: Today, the Third Sunday of Lent, we begin three consecutive Sundays of participation in what the Catholic Church calls “the Scrutinies”. In these rites, Jesus “scrutinizes” us with Divine Light, revealing all that is valuable within each of us. He also reveals to us the ways in which we are hurting, sick, and sinful. And as our loving Lord, He offers us all the divine antidote for all that ails us.

Intercessions for the Elect

[Replace or add to general intentions]

Lector: Let us pray for these elect, who have already made a long journey and whom the Church has confidently chosen, that when their preparation is complete, they may find Christ in His Sacraments at the Paschal Feasts. That they may ponder the word of God in their hearts and savor it more fully day by day, let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Lector: That they may know Christ, who came to save what was lost, let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Lector: That with humble hearts they may confess that they are sinners, let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Lector: That they may sincerely reject anything in their conduct that has displeased Christ and is contrary to him, let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Lector: That the Holy Spirit, who searches every heart, may strengthen them in their weakness with his power, let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Lector: That from the same Spirit they may learn the things that are of God and are pleasing to God. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Lector: That their families also may put their hope in Christ and find peace and holiness in Him, let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Lector: That we ourselves, in preparation for the Paschal Feasts, may correct our minds, raise our hearts and perform works of charity. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Lector: That throughout the whole world the weak may be strengthened, the broken restored, the lost found, and the found redeemed. Let us pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us pray. Oh God, who sent your son to us as a savior, grant that these elect who desire to draw living water like the Samaritan woman and have been converted by the word of the Lord, may acknowledge the hindrance of their own sins and weaknesses. Do not permit them, we pray, to rely on a vain confidence in themselves and to be deceived by the power of the devil, but free them from the spirit of untruth, so that, recognizing their sinfulness, they may be cleansed inwardly and advance on the way of salvation. Through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

Conclusion

Rodney: At this point, I ask all of our candidates and catechumens to stand along with their sponsor. Sponsors, if you will place your hand on your candidate.

Celebrant *[with hands extended]*: Lord Jesus, you are the fountain for which these chosen ones thirst and the Master whom they seek. Before you, who alone are holy, they dare not call themselves innocent. They open their hearts to you in faith, they acknowledge what has defiled them, they uncover their hidden wounds. Therefore, in your love, free them from their infirmities, heal their sicknesses, quench their thirst, and give them peace. Be present now to save them by the power of your name, which we invoke in faith. Restrain the evil spirit, whom you conquered by rising again. Show your elect the way forward in the Holy Spirit, so that they may come to the Father and worship him in truth. Who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

Celebrant: Although you cannot yet participate fully in the Lord's Eucharist, stay with us as a sign of our hope that all God's children will eat and drink with the Lord and work with His Holy Spirit. To recreate the face of the earth.