

GOD'S OFFER

Introduction

Dear sisters and brothers, today we celebrate the feast of St. Cecilia. She was martyred in the 2nd or 3rd century, and is known to be a person who sang in spite of the persecution and martyrdom she faced. Today, St. Cecilia is the patroness of music and musicians. We pray for all our cantors and members of our choirs, that God may bless all of them for their service to the church.

Homily / Reflection

We have seen in the previous day's readings that Jesus encountered Zacchaeus in Jericho and then, together with his disciples and others, he walks on a pilgrimage from Jericho to Jerusalem, which is about twenty kilometres. I myself had this opportunity to walk this same route of the pilgrims, and when we reach Bethany, which overlooks Jerusalem, the pilgrims stop and sing Psalm 121: Our hearts are filled with joy as we come to the city of God, the temple of Jerusalem.

As Jesus comes to Bethany, the gospel of today says he sheds tears. These are tears of sadness because Jerusalem, the city that should have welcomed God, has not welcomed him and did not accept the offer of God. While God offers, he also leaves people free. He offers us his grace, his love, his healing, his power. But we can refuse him. And if we refuse him, he is saddened.

The Lord's Prayer

God makes an offer to us. May we welcome that offer so that we may experience his joy, his peace, his love. We pray, Our Father...



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