

# CHÚA NHẬT THỨ 4 MÙA CHAY NĂM B



## MEMORY VERSE

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son."

Jn 3:16

## HỌC THUỘC LÒNG

"Thiên Chúa đã yêu thế gian đến nỗi đã ban Con Một mình."

Ga 3,16

**FIRST READING**  
**(2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23)**

**A Reading from the Second Book of Chronicles:**

In those days, all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations and polluting the Lord's temple which he had consecrated in Jerusalem.

Early and often did the Lord, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people and his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised his warnings, and scoffed at his prophets, until the anger of the Lord against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy. Their enemies burnt the house of God, tore down the walls of Jerusalem, set all its palaces afire, and destroyed all its precious objects. Those who escaped the sword were carried captive to Babylon, where they became servants of the king of the Chaldeans and his sons until the kingdom of the Persians came to power. All this was to fulfill the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah: "Until the land has retrieved its lost sabbaths, during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest while seventy years are fulfilled."

In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, the Lord inspired King Cyrus of Persia to issue this proclamation throughout his kingdom, both by word of mouth and in writing: "Thus says Cyrus, king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the Lord, the God of heaven, has given to me, and he has also charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever, therefore, among you belongs to any part of his people, let him go up, and may his God be with him!"

**The Word of the Lord.**

**BÀI ĐỌC I**  
**(2 Sb 36,14-16, 19-23)**

**Trích Sách Sử Biên Quển Thứ Hai:**

Trong những ngày ấy, tất cả những đầu mục tư tế và dân chúng đều bất trung, bắt chước những sự ghê tởm của các dân ngoại. Họ làm dơ bẩn đền thờ Chúa đã được Chúa thánh hoá tại Giê-ru-sa-lem.

Chúa là Thiên Chúa tỏ phụ họ, đã luôn luôn đem ngày sai sứ giả đến với họ, vì Người thương xót dân Người và đền thờ của Người. Nhưng họ nhạo báng các sứ giả Chúa, coi thường lời Chúa, và nhạo báng các tiên tri, đến nỗi, sau hết, cơn thịnh nộ của Chúa đã đổ lên dân Người, và vô phương cứu chữa. Quân thù đã đốt đền thờ Chúa, phá hủy tường thành Giê-ru-sa-lem, phóng hoả tất cả các lâu đài và thiêu hủy mọi đồ vật quý giá. Nếu có ai thoát khỏi lưỡi gươm, thì bị dẫn về Babylon để làm nô lệ nhà vua và con cái vua, cho đến thời vua nước Ba-tư thống trị; như thế ứng nghiệm lời Chúa dùng miệng tiên tri Giê-rê-mi-a mà phán, cho đến khi đất nước được mừng ngày Sabbath; vì trong tất cả những ngày xáo trộn, họ sẽ không giữ được ngày Sabbath trọn bảy mươi năm trường.

Năm thứ nhất triều đại Cy-rô, vua xứ Ba-tư, để lời Chúa dùng miệng tiên tri Giê-rê-mi-a phán trước được thực hiện, thì Chúa thúc đẩy tâm hồn hoàng đế Cy-rô, vua xứ Ba-tư, nhà vua ra lệnh truyền rao khắp đất nước, và ban chiếu chỉ rằng: "Đây hoàng đế Cy-rô, vua xứ Ba-tư tuyên bố: Chúa là Thiên Chúa trời đất đã ban cho trăm mọi nước trên mặt đất, và chính Người đã ra lệnh cho trăm xây cất cho Người một đền thờ ở Giê-ru-sa-lem trong xứ Giu-đa. Ai trong các ngươi thuộc về dân Chúa? Thiên Chúa sẽ ở với nó, và nó hãy tiến lên."

**Đó là Lời Chúa.**

**SECOND READING**  
(Eph 2:4-10)

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians:

Brothers and sisters: God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ, by grace you have been saved, raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast. For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.

The Word of the Lord.

**BÀI ĐỌC II**  
(Ep 2,4-10)

Trích Thư Của Thánh Phao-lô Gửi Tín Hữu Ê-phê-sô:

Anh em thân mến, Thiên Chúa là Đấng giàu lòng từ bi, vì lòng yêu thương cao cả mà Người đã yêu thương chúng ta, đến nỗi khi tội lỗi làm cho chúng ta phải chết, thì Người làm cho chúng ta sống lại trong Đức Kitô, nhờ ơn Ngài mà chúng ta được cứu rỗi; Người đã cho chúng ta được cùng chung sống lại và đồng ngự trị trên nước trời trong Đức Giêsu Kitô, để tỏ cho hậu thế được thấy sự phong phú dồi dào của ơn Chúa mà lòng nhân lành Chúa đã ban cho chúng ta trong Đức Giêsu Kitô. Vì chung, bởi ơn Chúa, anh em được cứu rỗi nhờ đức tin. Điều đó không phải do anh em, vì đó là ân huệ của Chúa; cũng không phải do việc làm, để không ai được tự phụ. Vì chúng ta là thụ tạo của Người, đã được tạo thành trong Đức Giêsu Kitô, để làm các việc lành mà Chúa đã dự liệu, hầu chúng ta đem ra thực hành.

Đó là Lời Chúa.

**GOSPEL**  
**(Jn 3:14-21)**

**The Gospel According to St. John:**

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**PHÚC ÂM**  
**(Ga 3,14-21)**

**Tin Mừng Chúa Giêsu theo Thánh Gio-an:**

Khi ấy, Chúa Giêsu nói với Ni-cô-đê-mô rằng: "Nhu Mô-sê đã treo con rắn lên ở sa mạc thế nào, thì Con Người cũng sẽ phải treo lên như vậy, để tất cả những ai tin ở Người, sẽ không bị huỷ diệt, nhưng được sống đời đời. Vì Thiên Chúa đã yêu thế gian đến nỗi đã ban Con Một mình, để tất cả những ai tin Con Ngài thì không phải hư mất, nhưng được sống đời đời, vì Thiên Chúa không sai Con của Ngài giáng trần để luận phạt thế gian, nhưng để thế gian nhờ Con Ngài mà được cứu độ. Ai tin Người Con ấy thì không bị luận phạt. Ai không tin thì đã bị luận phạt rồi, vì không tin vào danh Con Một Thiên Chúa; và đây án phạt là sự sáng đã đến thế gian, và người đời đã yêu sự tối tăm hơn sự sáng, vì hành động của họ xấu xa. Thật vậy, ai hành động xấu xa thì ghét sự sáng, và không đến cùng sự sáng, sợ những việc làm của mình bị khiển trách; nhưng ai hành động trong sự thật thì đến cùng sự sáng, để hành động của họ được sáng tỏ là họ đã làm trong Thiên Chúa."

**Đó là Lời Chúa.**

**Fill in the BLANK****Điền vào chỗ TRỎ NG**

1. Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Just as Moses lifted up \_\_\_\_\_, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who \_\_\_\_\_ may have \_\_\_\_\_."  
Chúa Giêsu nói với Ni-cô-đê-mô rằng: "Như Mô-sê đã treo \_\_\_\_\_ thế nào, thì Con Người cũng sẽ phải treo lên như vậy, để tất cả những ai \_\_\_\_\_, sẽ được \_\_\_\_\_."
2. Everyone who does \_\_\_\_\_ hates \_\_\_\_\_ and does not come toward \_\_\_\_\_, so that his works might not be exposed.  
Ai \_\_\_\_\_ thì ghét \_\_\_\_\_, và không đến cùng \_\_\_\_\_, sợ những việc làm của mình bị khiển trách.

**TRUE OR FALSE****ĐÚNG HAY SAI**

3. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone in the world will go to heaven.  
Thiên Chúa đã yêu thế gian đến nỗi đã ban Con Một mình, để tất cả mọi người trên thế giới này được lên Thiên Đàng.
4. Everyone who does wicked things hates the light but whoever lives the truth loves the light.  
Những ai hành động xấu xa thì ghét sự sáng nhưng những người sống thật thà thì yêu mến sự sáng.

**UNDERLINE the correct answer(s)****GẠCH DƯỚI câu trả lời đúng:**

5. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him ...  
A. May not persecuted but may have eternal life  
B. May not perish but may have eternal life.  
C. May be happy in this earth and have eternal life.  
D. All of the above.  
Thiên Chúa đã yêu thế gian đến nỗi đã ban Con Một mình, để tất cả những ai tin Con Ngài ...  
A. Thì không bị bách hại, nhưng được sống đời đời.  
B. Thì không phải hư mất, nhưng được sống đời đời.  
C. Thì được hạnh phúc ở thế gian này và được sống đời đời.  
D. Tất cả đều đúng.

# Word SEARCH



## MEMORY VERSE

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son."

Jn 3:16

## HỌC THUỘC LÒNG

"Thiên Chúa đã yêu thế gian đến nỗi đã ban Con Một mình."

Ga 3:16

N C M O V E R R R I U E O S E  
D G E I L D D L W E E I S N W  
P S V O M A S R O L J L E I N  
E R E L S I P E R I S H L E N  
T A L O I K G T L G O M T L O  
V T K V S A V E D H D O J E E  
S E E E L D U R B T E S I R E  
C L L D A R K N E S S E D R E  
O T I S T S P A L J E S U S O  
N I D W E E X L I P R M N E N  
D W G M S E R P E N T S D I E  
E V I L N I D E V S B T O R U  
M A V E X P O S E D S L U S V  
N I C O D E M U S E H O B N L  
R P N N E S R V N E U O D E S

## KEY WORDS

JESUS  
SERPENT  
ETERNAL  
CONDEMN  
DARKNESS

NICODEMUS  
DESERT  
LOVED  
SAVED  
EVIL

MOSES  
BELIEVES  
WORLD  
LIGHT  
EXPOSED

## REFLECTIONS

### FIRST READING

This reading paints a shameful picture of God's people repeatedly piling up one sin upon another. No matter how many messengers He sends them, they refuse to hear God's call to repentance. Like a parent who has run out of ways to discipline his or her children, God has "no remedy." So He allows them to be defeated by their enemies and taken into exile for seventy years. Only after they repent sincerely does God free his people through Cyrus, king of Persia. And Cyrus orders them to rebuild their Temple in Jerusalem to "fulfill the word of the Lord."

**Who are the messengers and prophets in today's world who call us to turn back to God and live faithfully? How are their messages often received?**

We too are in need of God's mercy when we fail to repent and seek forgiveness for our sins. Lent is a good time to rebuild what needs repair in our lives.

Who are the messengers and prophets in today's world who call us to turn back to God and live faithfully? How are their messages often received? Why is that? What evidence do we have that God is merciful?

What are some signs that people are truly repentant? How can you express sorrow for your sins during Lent? How would you like to repair or rebuild any relationships in your family, school, or parish?

### SECOND READING

The second reading begins with the reassuring truth that "God is rich in mercy." We know God is merciful because, despite our sinfulness, he brought us to life in Christ. We have not earned our salvation. It is Jesus' gift to us.

Paul tells us that we are God's handiwork. And our goal in life is, by God's grace, to "lead the life of good deeds" which God has planned for us.

**How would you most like to have your family, school, or parish join together in doing one meaningful good deed during Lent? What actions can you take toward that goal?**

Who do you know or know of, who is "rich in mercy"? How does he or she show mercy? Recall a time when you acted mercifully by forgiving someone who had seriously offended you, or by helping someone who was in need. What difference did your actions make?

How would you most like to have your family, school, or parish join together in doing one meaningful good deed during Lent? What actions can you take toward that goal?

## GOSPEL

In teaching Nicodemus, Jesus uses a familiar story from the Old Testament (Numbers 21:4-9) about Moses. When Moses lifted up a bronze snake in the desert for all to see, those who had been bitten by snakes were healed. Jesus says that he too must be lifted up so that all might have eternal life through him. He will be lifted up on the cross. But he will also be lifted up in his resurrection and in his ascension to the Father. Whoever looks at him in faith will receive eternal life.

Followers of Jesus recognize him as the light that came into the world. They live truthfully in the light, unlike those who choose the darkness and do evil deeds.

Picture the entire world today as a patient in a doctor's office. What might the doctor say is wrong with the world's health? List some of the problems Jesus might point out and name some of the ways the followers of Jesus can be healers in our world.

How do members of your family, school community, and parish show that they are living in the light? What can we do to help others choose to live truthfully in the light?

**How do members of your family, school community, and parish show that they are living in the light? What can we do to help others choose to live truthfully in the light?**



## St. Cyril of Jerusalem

March 18<sup>th</sup>



St. Cyril was raised in Jerusalem when a new kind of life was beginning for Christians. Before that time, the Church was tortured by the emperors. Thousands of Christians had been martyrs and died for their faith in Christ.

In 315, Emperor Constantine declared Christianity as a legal religion. That was a wonderful thing, but it didn't end all the problems. In fact, during the years that followed Christians faced a new problem.

There was confusion about what Christians believe and don't believe. There were many false teachings called "heresies." Some priests and bishops became brave defenders of Church teaching. One such bishop was Cyril of Jerusalem.

When St. Maximus, bishop of Jerusalem, died, Cyril was chosen to take his place. Cyril was the bishop of Jerusalem for thirty-five years. Sixteen long years of that time were spent in hiding and exile.

Three times he was run out of town by influential Arian people who wanted him removed. They were trying to force Cyril to accept false teachings about Jesus and the Church. But he would not give in.

In 361 when Julian became emperor, he decided to rebuild the famous Temple of Jerusalem. He wanted to prove that Jesus was wrong when he said that the Temple of Jerusalem would not be rebuilt.

So he spent much money and sent all the materials for a new Temple. Many people helped by giving jewels and precious metals. Yet St. Cyril faced the difficulty with calmness.

He was sure that the Temple could not be built, because Jesus, who is God, had said so. The bishop looked calmly at all the materials and said, "I know that this will fail." And sure enough, first a storm, then an earthquake, then a fire stopped the temple from being built. The emperor finally gave up the project.

St. Cyril died in 386 when he was around seventy. This gentle, kindly man had lived in times of confusion and sadness. But he never lost his courage because it came from Jesus. He was faithful to the Lord all his life. Cyril was heroic in teaching the truth about Jesus and his Church.