

that those bound by a guilty  
conscience  
may glory in the fullness of  
heavenly remedy.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

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**PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE** *(Optional)*

O God, protector of all who  
hope in you,  
bless your people, keep them  
safe,  
defend them, prepare them,  
that, free from sin and safe  
from the enemy,  
they may persevere always in  
your love.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

• • •

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

Jesus reminds us that our actions  
tell others who we are.

- **What do my actions reveal  
about my desire to be changed  
this Lent?**

*Jesus, help me...*

**FRIDAY**  
**MARCH 27**

LENTEN WEEKDAY

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*(Cf. Psalm 54 [53]:3-4)*

O God, save me by your  
name; by your power, defend  
my cause. O God, hear my  
prayer; give ear to the words  
of my mouth.

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**COLLECT**

O God, who have prepared  
fitting helps for us in our  
weakness,  
grant, we pray, that we may  
receive  
their healing effects with joy  
and reflect them in a holy  
way of life.

Through our Lord Jesus  
Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with  
you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

**READING** (*Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22*)

The wicked said among themselves,  
thinking not aright:  
“Let us beset the just one,  
because he is  
obnoxious to us;  
he sets himself  
against our doings,  
Reproaches us for  
transgressions of the law  
and charges us with  
violations of  
our training.  
He professes to have  
knowledge of God  
and styles himself a child  
of the LORD.  
To us he is the censure  
of our thoughts;  
merely to see him is a  
hardship for us,  
Because his life is not like  
that of others,  
and different are his ways.  
He judges us debased;  
he holds aloof from  
our paths as from

things impure.  
He calls blest the  
destiny of the just  
and boasts that God  
is his Father.  
Let us see whether his  
words be true;  
let us find out what will  
happen to him.  
For if the just one be the  
son of God, he will  
defend him  
and deliver him from  
the hand of his foes.  
With revilement and torture  
let us put him to the test  
that we may have proof  
of his gentleness  
and try his patience.  
Let us condemn him  
to a shameful death;  
for according to his own  
words, God will  
take care of him.”  
These were their thoughts,  
but they erred;  
for their wickedness  
blinded them,

and they knew not the  
hidden counsels of God;  
neither did they count on  
a recompense of holiness  
nor discern the innocent  
souls' reward.

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### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*(Psalm 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23)*

**R: The Lord is close to the  
brokenhearted.**

The LORD confronts  
the evildoers,  
to destroy remembrance  
of them from the earth.  
When the just cry out, the  
LORD hears them,  
and from all their distress  
he rescues them. **R**

The LORD is close to  
the brokenhearted;  
and those who are  
crushed in spirit he saves.  
Many are the troubles  
of the just man,  
but out of them all the  
LORD delivers him. **R**  
He watches over all

his bones;  
not one of them  
shall be broken.  
The LORD redeems the lives  
of his servants;  
no one incurs guilt who  
takes refuge in him. **R**

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### VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

*(Matthew 4:4b)*

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
King of endless glory!** One does  
not live on bread alone, but on  
every word that comes forth  
from the mouth of God. **Praise  
to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of  
endless glory!**

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**GOSPEL** *(John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30)*

**J**esus moved about within  
Galilee; he did not wish  
to travel in Judea, because  
the Jews were trying to kill  
him. But the Jewish feast of  
Tabernacles was near.

But when his brothers had  
gone up to the feast, he him-  
self also went up, not openly

but as it were in secret.

Some of the inhabitants of Jerusalem said, “Is he not the one they are trying to kill? And look, he is speaking openly and they say nothing to him. Could the authorities have realized that he is the Christ? But we know where he is from. When the Christ comes, no one will know

where he is from.” So Jesus cried out in the temple area as he was teaching and said, “You know me and also know where I am from. Yet I did not come on my own, but the one who sent me, whom you do not know, is true. I know him, because I am from him, and he sent me.” So they tried to arrest him, but no one laid a

### Today's Good News

**“If the just one be the son of God, he will defend him and deliver him from the hand of his foes” (Wisdom 2:18).** »

Isn't this what we all want to believe: that if a person is doing what God wants, he or she will be protected from harm, especially from the wickedness of other people? But our experience tells us that isn't so. And it wasn't so for Jesus himself. The thinking expressed in this passage from the Book of Wisdom reflects a misunderstanding of what it means for God to care for us. Those who think this way know “not the hidden counsels of God.” From the perspective of this brief life on earth, the just one's fate seems tragic, even pointless. But viewed from the eternal love of God, there is reward and vindication for the righteous. That is our hope, a hope that is beyond the schemes and calculations of worldly wisdom. *Lord Jesus, strengthen my faith in your eternal care for me and those I love.*

**MARK NEILSEN**

hand upon him, because his hour had not yet come.

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#### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this sacrifice, almighty God,  
 cleanse us by its mighty power  
 and lead us to approach its source  
 with ever greater purity.  
 Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

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#### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*(Ephesians 1:7)*

In Christ, we have redemption by his Blood,  
 and forgiveness of our sins,  
 in accord with the riches of his grace.

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#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, we pray, O Lord,  
 that, as we pass from old to new,  
 so, with former ways left behind,

we may be renewed in holiness of mind.  
 Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

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#### PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE *(Optional)*

Look upon your servants,  
 O Lord,  
 and in your goodness protect  
 with heavenly assistance those who trust in your mercy.  
 Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**



#### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Despite opposition, Jesus spoke openly about God's presence and plan for right relationships.

- **What keeps me from speaking more openly about God and spiritual things?**

*Jesus, help me...*