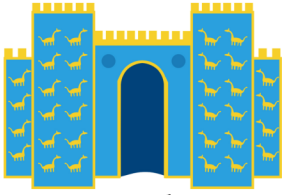


Joshua the High Priest

Zechariah 3:1-7

Old
Testament
Story Time



In the year 586 BC, Nebuchadnezzar II, the king of the Babylonian Empire, destroyed the city of Jerusalem and the Temple of the Lord. The people of Jerusalem and Judah were taken as slaves and sent into exile in Babylon.

The Israelites were now living in slavery once again and they no longer had their Temple to worship the Lord God. The Babylonian exile lasted for about seventy years, during which time the Persian Empire took control of the land. King Cyrus, one of the Persian Kings, was kind to the captured people of Judah and he gave the Israelites money to return to their homeland.

After the people returned to Jerusalem around 520 BC, the Lord chose two men as prophets for His people. Haggai and Zechariah were called to challenge and motivate the Israelite people to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem and look for the fulfillment of God's promises.

The prophet Zechariah received eight visions from the Lord God in order to convey God's message to the people. In one vision, Zechariah saw Joshua the High Priest standing in the Temple before the angel of God. But on Joshua's right side stood the adversary, also known as the Devil! While the Devil was there to accuse Joshua of his sins, the angel of the Lord rebuked the Devil and showed mercy to Joshua.

Joshua the High Priest, standing before the angel of the Lord, was wearing filthy and dirty clothes. The dirty clothes represented all the sins of the Israelite people. Because the people repented of their sins, the Lord forgave them. God showed his mercy and love by giving Joshua new clothes. The sins of the people were wiped away, just as the dirty clothes were removed and replaced with fresh new garments.



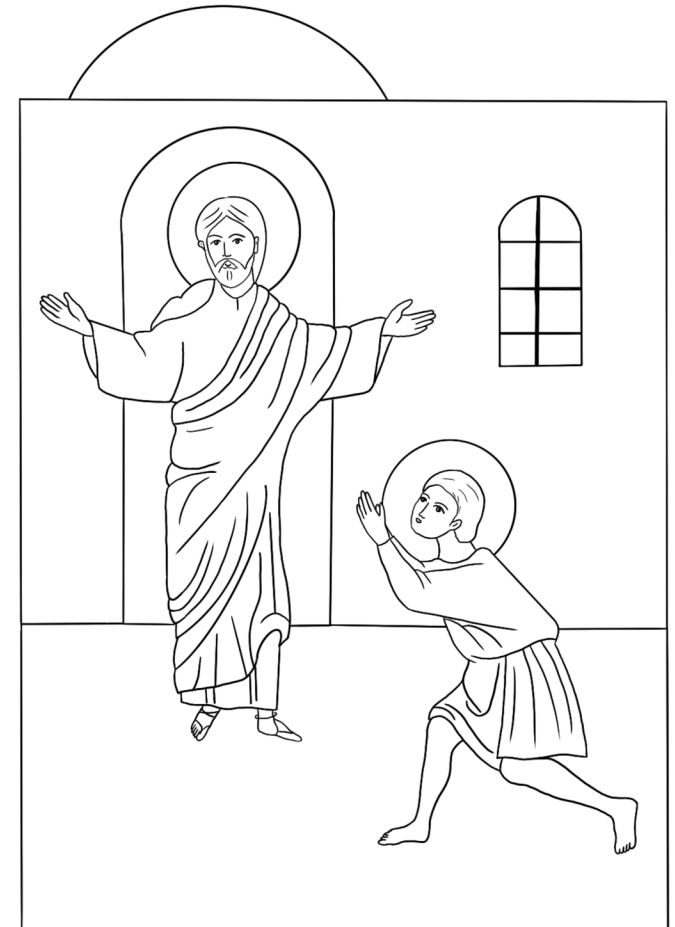
Cedar

Kids

The Way of Blessed Estephan Douaihy



4th Sunday of Great Lent,
The Parable of the Prodigal Son, Vol 1, No.27



The true love of the father
far surpassed his son's great sin.
He ran out to embrace him
when at last his son came home.

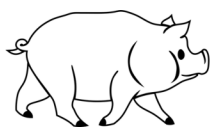
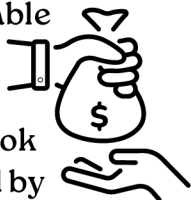




Gospel Corner

Luke
15:11-32

In today's Gospel reading, we learned a parable about two brothers. One brother decided he no longer wanted to live in his father's house and follow his father's rules. So he took his inheritance in advance, moved out, lived by his own rules and enjoyed the pleasures of the world.



Some time later, this son ran out of money. He realized that the promises and pleasures that the world offers are fleeting, and he was starving. He was so hungry that even the pigs' food looked appetizing to him!

Finding himself in this situation and out of options, the son decided the only thing to do was to humble himself, go home, and ask his father for forgiveness and to receive him into the house again, even as a servant!

The father was eagerly waiting for his son. When he saw him he didn't even hesitate - he received his long lost son with open arms, forgave him, and threw a party to celebrate his return.



Do you know that this is the joy of your Heavenly Father every time you humble yourself and come to Him in Confession? It doesn't matter how long it's been since your last Confession or what sins you've committed. When you come to Jesus in Confession, truly sorry for what you've done wrong, and ask Him for forgiveness, He is like the father in the parable who welcomed his son with a party. He doesn't hold onto the sins or hesitate - He forgives them and is so happy that you've come!

Did you know?

Mystery of Reconciliation



In the Mystery of Reconciliation, a person confesses their sins to a priest. Jesus gave this Mystery to the Church in His love and mercy to offer sinners forgiveness for offenses against God and against their neighbor.

Confession brings reconciliation between God and the penitent, as well as the penitent and their neighbor.

What you can do

If you are old enough, go to confession before the Glorious Resurrection (Easter) in preparation for this great feast.

Ask forgiveness from your Mom and Dad

If there is someone you are struggling to forgive, pray and ask for help showing mercy and forgiveness.



Help the Prodigal Son Find His Way Home

