

Tuesday, March 22

Today we remember how our Lord was pained by the unbelief around him. Although he calls on people to believe in him, the words of the prophet Isaiah come true.

The Prayer of Confession

*Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am languishing;
heal me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled.*

Psalm 6:2

The Gospel Reading

Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said, “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.” Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him. Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

John 12:37–43

The Psalm of Response

*I am weary with my moaning;
every night I flood my bed with tears;
I drench my couch with my weeping.
My eye wastes away because of grief;
it grows weak because of all my foes.
Depart from me, all you workers of evil,
for the LORD has heard the sound of my weeping.
The LORD has heard my plea;
the LORD accepts my prayer.*

Psalm 6:6-9

The Prayer for the Day – of Supplication

I beseech you, merciful God, to allow me to drink from the stream that flows from your fountain of life. May I taste the sweet beauty of its waters, which spring from the very depths of your truth. O Lord, you are that fountain from which I desire with all my heart to drink. Give me, Lord Jesus, this water, that it may quench the burning spiritual thirst within my soul, and purify me from all sin. I know, King of Glory, that I am asking from you a great gift. But you give to your faithful people without counting the cost, and you promise even greater things in the future. Indeed, nothing is greater than yourself, and you have given yourself to humankind on the cross. Therefore, in praying for the waters of life, I am praying that you, the source of those waters, will give yourself to me. You are my light, my salvation, my food, my drink, my God.

St. Columbán, 6th Century

The Closing Psalm Prayer

Lord, do not blind my eyes or harden my heart. In these days when we remember your Son's suffering, and always, deliver me from my sins and save me for your mercy's sake; through Jesus Christ your only begotten Son.

adapted from Psalm 6:4