**WEDNESDAY MARCH 16 – SECOND WEEK OF LENT [C]**

**"Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and scourged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day."**

**In each of its page, the Gospel reveals the infinite distance that separates Christ Jesus from his disciples. They walk together, but in two separate and distinct worlds. Jesus walks in the heart of the Law, of the Prophecy, of the Psalms. The disciples, instead, walk in the heart of the world, for they think as the world and not as Christ Jesus Today is not different from yesterday. Today, we, too, walk with Christ the Lord but not with his thought, so as he has revealed it in its purity. We say of being with Christ, but we move forward into history with the thoughts of men. We say of worshipping Christ, but remaining at the service of Satan and of his lie. Two truths of the Apostle Paul can help us to highlight this abyss that separates us from the thought of Christ Jesus: “Yet we do speak a wisdom to those who are mature, but not a wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age who are passing away. Rather, we speak God's wisdom, mysterious, hidden, which God predetermined before the ages for our glory, and which none of the rulers of this age knew; for if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written: "What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him," this God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit scrutinizes everything, even the depths of God. Among human beings, who knows what pertains to a person except the spirit of the person that is within? Similarly, no one knows what pertains to God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the things freely given us by God. And we speak about them not with words taught by human wisdom, but with words taught by the Spirit, describing spiritual realities in spiritual terms. Now the natural person does not accept what pertains to the Spirit of God, for to him it is foolishness, and he cannot understand it, because it is judged spiritually. The spiritual person, however, can judge everything but is not subject to judgment by anyone. For "who has known the mind of the Lord, so as to counsel him?" But we have the mind of Christ.” (1Cor2, 6-16)**

**And also: “We have spoken frankly to you, Corinthians; our heart is open wide. You are not constrained by us; you are constrained by your own affections. As recompense in kind (I speak as to my children), be open yourselves. Do not be yoked with those who are different, with unbelievers. For what partnership do righteousness and lawlessness have? Or what fellowship does light have with darkness? What accord has Christ with Beliar? Or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said: "I will live with them and move among them, and I will be their God and they shall be my people. Therefore, come forth from them and be separate," says the Lord, "and touch nothing unclean; then I will receive you and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.** **Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of flesh and spirit, making holiness perfect in the fear of God." (2Cor 6,11-7,1) We are in the thought of Christ when our heart is in the Gospel of Christ.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 20,17-28**

**As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve (disciples) aside by themselves, and said to them on the way, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and scourged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day." Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee approached him with her sons and did him homage, wishing to ask him for something. He said to her, "What do you wish?" She answered him, "Command that these two sons of mine sit, one at your right and the other at your left, in your kingdom." Jesus said in reply, "You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?" They said to him, "We can." He replied, "My cup you will indeed drink, but to sit at my right and at my left (, this) is not mine to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father." When the ten heard this, they became indignant at the two brothers. But Jesus summoned them and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and the great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave. Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."**

**Who should manifest the endless distance that separates the Christian from the thought of Christ today? Everyone must manifest the distance in relation to his personal responsibility. First, it is up to the Apostles, then, in communion with them, to prophets, to teachers, to doctors, those ones who exercise the ministry of teaching. It is up to each member of the body of Christ to manifest with his life that he is in the thought of Christ Jesus. This obligation lasts the entire life. In every circumstance, before every cross, one must always attest with his life that one is in the Gospel of Jesus. May the Mother of God obtain for us the grace of living and dying in the Gospel.**