**THURSDAY MARCH 31 – FOURTH WEEK OF LENT [C]**

**Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father: the one who will accuse you is Moses, in whom you have placed your hope. For if you had believed Moses, you would have believed me, because he wrote about me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"**

**When does one have true faith in Moses or in another prophet? When one lives that the prophet proclaims, reveals, commands. If there is separation between what one says to believe in and what one lives, then one does not believe in that prophet or in that envoy of the Lord. Here is the lamentation of the Lord addressed to his people through the means of the prophet Malachi: “A son honors his father, and a servant fears his master; If then I am a father, where is the honor due to me? And if I am a master, where is the reverence due to me? -  So says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise his name. But you ask, "How have we despised your name?" By offering polluted food on my altar! Then you ask, "How have we polluted it?" By saying the table of the LORD may be slighted! When you offer a blind animal for sacrifice, is this not evil? When you offer the lame or the sick, is it not evil? Present it to your governor; see if he will accept it, or welcome you, says the LORD of hosts. So now if you implore God for mercy on us, when you have done the like Will he welcome any of you? says the LORD of hosts. Oh, that one among you would shut the temple gates to keep you from kindling fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the LORD of hosts; neither will I accept any sacrifice from your hands, For from the rising of the sun, even to its setting, my name is great among the nations; And everywhere they bring sacrifice to my name, and a pure offering; For great is my name among the nations, says the LORD of hosts. But you behave profanely toward me by thinking the LORD'S table and its offering may be polluted, and its food slighted. You also say, "What a burden!" and you scorn it, says the LORD of hosts; You bring in what you seize, or the lame, or the sick; yes, you bring it as a sacrifice. Shall I accept it from your hands? says the LORD. Cursed is the deceiver, who has in his flock a male, but under his vow sacrifices to the LORD a gelding; For a great King am I, says the LORD of hosts, and my name will be feared among the nations.” (Mal 1, 6-14) Jesus proclaims the same truth to his disciples after having cleaned their feet:** “**So when he had washed their feet (and) put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do. Amen, amen, I say to you, no slave is greater than his master nor any messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you understand this, blessed are you if you do it.” (Jn 13, 12-17) Whoever believes in Christ must live every command of Christ. If one only command is not lived, faith in Christ is not perfect.**

**Here is now the great difference between the faith of Christ Jesus in his Father and the faith of the scribes and of the Pharisees in Moses. Jesus has fulfilled every commandment of the Father, even the little one, in each of its part. Not even an atom of the Word of the Father has He left without fulfilment. He has not lived for his glory, but only for the glory of his Father. The Pharisees and the scribes have substituted the Word of Moses together with the Word of every other prophet with their tradition. The difference is as equal as that that reigns between darkness and light. Jesus is the most pure light of the Father. The Pharisees and the scribes are instead darkness in relation to Moses. This is why they are against Christ: because they do not know Moses, they are not light of Moses, they are not light of God.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 5,31-47**

**"If I testify on my own behalf, my testimony cannot be verified. But there is another who testifies on my behalf, and I know that the testimony he gives on my behalf is true. You sent emissaries to John, and he testified to the truth. I do not accept testimony from a human being, but I say this so that you may be saved. He was a burning and shining lamp, and for a while you were content to rejoice in his light. But I have testimony greater than John's. The works that the Father gave me to accomplish, these works that I perform testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me. Moreover, the Father who sent me has testified on my behalf. But you have never heard his voice nor seen his form, and you do not have his word remaining in you, because you do not believe in the one whom he has sent. You search the scriptures, because you think you have eternal life through them; even they testify on my behalf. But you do not want to come to me to have life. "I do not accept human praise; moreover, I know that you do not have the love of God in you. I came in the name of my Father, but you do not accept me; yet if another comes in his own name, you will accept him. How can you believe, when you accept praise from one another and do not seek the praise that comes from the only God? Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father: the one who will accuse you is Moses, in whom you have placed your hope. For if you had believed Moses, you would have believed me, because he wrote about me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"**

**The life conform to the Word attests that we are in the light. The life contrary to the Word attests that we are in the darkness. May the Mother of God help us.**