**SATURDAY APRIL 02 – FOURTH WEEK OF LENT [C]**

**Some of them even wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. So the guards went to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, "Why did you not bring him?" The guards answered, "Never before has anyone spoken like this one."**

**The Apostle Paul was speechless before the greatness of God’s wisdom:** “**Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has given him anything that he may be repaid?" For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.” (Rm 11, 33-36) The queen of Sheba proclaimed blessed those who listened to the Solomon’s wisdom:** “**When the queen of Sheba witnessed Solomon's wisdom, the palace he had built, the food at his table, the seating of his ministers, the attendance of his servants and their dress, his cupbearers and their dress, and the holocausts he offered in the house of the LORD, it took her breath away. "The account I heard in my country about your deeds and your wisdom is true," she told the king. "Yet I did not believe the report until I came and saw with my own eyes. I have discovered that they did not tell me the half of your great wisdom; you have surpassed the stories I heard. Happy are your men, happy these servants of yours, who stand before you always and listen to your wisdom. Blessed be the LORD, your God, who has been so pleased with you as to place you on his throne as king for the LORD, your God. Because your God has so loved Israel as to will to make it last forever, he has appointed you over them as king to administer right and justice." (2Cro 9, 3-8)**

**Jesus declares that before those who listen to Him and see Him working there is something greater than Jonah and something greater than Solomon:** “**Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." He said to them in reply, "An evil and unfaithful generation seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it except the sign of Jonah the prophet. Just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights. At the judgment, the men of Nineveh will arise with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and there is something greater than Jonah here. At the judgment the queen of the south will arise with this generation and condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and there is something greater than Solomon here.” Jesus is the eternal Wisdom of the Father made flesh. This is his truth. If no one was able to resist the inspired wisdom with which Stephen spoke, who might ever resist the Eternal Wisodm that is Jesus the Lord? Here is what the Acts of the Apostles narrate:** “**Now Stephen, filled with grace and power, was working great wonders and signs among the people. Certain members of the so-called Synagogue of Freedmen, Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and people from Cilicia and Asia, came forward and debated with Stephen, but they could not withstand the wisdom and the spirit with which he spoke. Then they instigated some men to say, "We have heard him speaking blasphemous words against Moses and God." They stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes, accosted him, seized him, and brought him before the Sanhedrin. They presented false witnesses who testified, "This man never stops saying things against (this) holy place and the law. For we have heard him claim that this Jesus the Nazorean will destroy this place and change the customs that Moses handed down to us." (Act 6, 8-14) Not being able to overcome Stephen with the logical, wise, rational demonstration, they want to overcome him with calumny, with the false testimony, blackening his name.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 7,40-53**

**Some in the crowd who heard these words said, "This is truly the Prophet." Others said, "This is the Messiah." But others said, "The Messiah will not come from Galilee, will he? Does not scripture say that the Messiah will be of David's family and come from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?" So a division occurred in the crowd because of him. Some of them even wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. So the guards went to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, "Why did you not bring him?" The guards answered, "Never before has anyone spoken like this one." So the Pharisees answered them, "Have you also been deceived? Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, which does not know the law, is accursed." Nicodemus, one of their members who had come to him earlier, said to them, "Does our law condemn a person before it first hears him and finds out what he is doing?" They answered and said to him, "You are not from Galilee also, are you? Look and see that no prophet arises from Galilee." Then each went to his own house.**

**Thus happened with Christ Jesus, as well. The guards were dazed by the wisdom of Jesus. True miracle of the Father. They do not arrest him. The Pharisees accuse the guards of being accursed for they do not know the Law. Nicodemus knows the Law and he is accused of ignorance. They alone are wise, intelligent, perfect knowers of the Law. They know it so well that they do not even know that the light of the people of the Lord precisely comes from the Galilee according to the prophecy of Isaiah. Mother of God, deliver us from arrogance and from the wickedness and evil of heart. A wicked and evil heart blackens even the light of God with calumny.**