**FRIDAY APRIL 08 – FIFTH WEEK OF LENT [C]**

**“If I do not perform my Father's works, do not believe me; but if I perform them, even if you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may realize (and understand) that the Father is in me and I am in the Father."**

**What are the works Jesus shall fulfil? The obedience to every Word the Father has written for him. This obedience must come until the death by crucifixion. Even the crucifixion on the Golgotha is Word of the Father. Even this one, must he fulfil with perfect and full obedience. Word and Christ are one only thing. Gospel and Christ are one only thing. Christ and obedience to the Word are one only thing. The death by crucifixion is the last “visible work” of the Father. Through this last work the world must believe that truly He is from the Father. The Gospel attests that the centurion has confessed the truth of Christ Jesus precisely when seeing this last work:** “**The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said, "Truly, this was the Son of God!" (Mt 27, 54)**

**Here is the first prophecy of Jesus about his lifting up:** **He said to them again, "I am going away and you will look for me, but you will die in your sin. Where I am going you cannot come." So the Jews said, "He is not going to kill himself, is he, because he said, 'Where I am going you cannot come'?" He said to them, "You belong to what is below, I belong to what is above. You belong to this world, but I do not belong to this world. That is why I told you that you will die in your sins. For if you do not believe that I AM, you will die in your sins." So they said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "What I told you from the beginning. I have much to say about you in condemnation. But the one who sent me is true, and what I heard from him I tell the world." They did not realize that he was speaking to them of the Father. So Jesus said (to them), "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I AM, and that I do nothing on my own, but I say only what the Father taught me. The one who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, because I always do what is pleasing to him." (Jn 8, 21-29)**

**Here is the second prophecy, always of Jesus, about his lifting up: “Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me. "I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.” (Jn 12, 23-33) It is on the cross that Jesus proclaims the entire world that all the Words of the Father written for him were fulfilled. Truly Jesus has carried out all the works of the Father.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 10,31-42**

**The Jews again picked up rocks to stone him. Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from my Father. For which of these are you trying to stone me?" The Jews answered him, "We are not stoning you for a good work but for blasphemy. You, a man, are making yourself God." Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are gods"'? If it calls them gods to whom the word of God came, and scripture cannot be set aside, can you say that the one whom the Father has consecrated and sent into the world blasphemes because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? If I do not perform my Father's works, do not believe me; but if I perform them, even if you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may realize (and understand) that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." (Then) they tried again to arrest him; but he escaped from their power. He went back across the Jordan to the place where John first baptized, and there he remained. Many came to him and said, "John performed no sign, but everything John said about this man was true." And many there began to believe in him.**

**It is enough that we put the Words of the Father from one side and the entire life of Christ Jesus from the other, since the moment of his conceiving until the day He has risen up to heaven after his glorious resurrection, and it will be possible to affirm that no Word remained without fulfilment. Since all of them were fulfilled in Him, He is the true Christ, the true Messiah, the true Saviour, the true Redeemer, the only Mediator between God and humanity. There is no other true Christ for these words were fulfilled in no other person. Another true Christ might exist neither today nor tomorrow, since so far the Words were fulfilled and it were given for one only person: for the true Christ of God. Having the Christian lost the faith in the Word of Christ today, he has also lost the faith in the true Christ. From what do we realize he preaches a false Christ? From the false word he attributes to Christ the Lord. May our Mother lead us back all to the true faith.**