

true saviour, is about to die on the cross spiritually freeing all humanity from the bondage of sin.

Barabbas represents all of humanity. We are all guilty of sin, and **Romans 6:23** states that, “the wages of sin is death.” We cannot save ourselves or find freedom by our own works like Barabbas tried to do. **Isaiah 64:4** says that “Our own righteousness is like filthy rags”. We can only depend on Jesus to take away our sins, so that we can be released from the penalty of death and find true freedom. Barabbas saw the need for salvation and freedom from the romans, but not from sin. He tried to redeem his people by his own ways and in his own strength, but he failed.

-Bernard Kellett

Entrance antiphon: Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

First Reading: Acts 2: 14: 22-33

Psalms 15: Response: Show us, Lord, the path of life.

Second Reading: 1Peter 1: 17-21

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us. Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 24: 13-35

Memorial Acclamation: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Communion Antiphon: The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.



Third Sunday of Easter Cycle A, 2023 Weekly Reflection:

Barabbas: Barabbas was a prisoner who was condemned to death by the Roman authorities during the time of Jesus' trial by Pilate. The Jews opted to have him released instead of Jesus, who was

condemned to die by crucifixion.

Barabbas had been jailed for sedition and murder. **Matthew 27:16** calls him “a notorious prisoner”. **Mark 15:7** says Barabbas had been part of a rebellion in the city against the Roman authorities. According to the Roman law, he was condemned to die. Contrast this with Jesus, who the Jewish leaders were determined to have killed because they were envious of Him. The leaders brought Jesus before Pilate for trial and even Pilate found Him to be innocent. Both Pilate and his wife referred to Jesus as a “just man” (**Matthew 27:18, 19, 27**). The Jews could choose one prisoner to be set free during Passover. Pilate asked the Jewish leaders “whom do you want me to release to you Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ? **Matthew 27:17**. They chose Barabbas. Pilate eventually agreed to their choice releasing Barabbas and sent Jesus to be beaten and then crucified. **Acts 27:26**

What does the name Barabbas mean? In Hebrew, the name Barabbas can be split into two words: bar meaning “son of” and abbas meaning “father”. While Barabbas name literally means “son of the father”, Jesus was the true and literal “Son of God the Father.” Some versions of the Bible refer to Barabbas as “Jesus Barabbas” in **Matthew 27:16, 17**. Essentially, Pilate was asking the Jewish leaders to choose between Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah.

According to **Matthew 1:21**, the name Jesus means “saviour”. Thus, Jesus Barabbas was trying to be the saviour of the Jews by taking part in a physical rebellion against the roman authorities. On the other hand, Jesus Christ, the