



**FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020:  
Friday of the Third Week of Lent**



Catholic Church

215 South 8th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Good Morning!

Today we read from Hosea 14:2-10, Psalm 81 and Mark 12:28-34. "I am the Lord your God; hear my voice." Our responsorial psalm response leads us to reflect upon our readings today. What is God saying to us? What can we take from what is happening? Hosea prophesied, "Return, O Israel, to the Lord, your God; you have collapsed through your guilt. Take with you words and return to the Lord." Hosea goes on and says, "I will heal their defection, says the Lord, I will love them freely; for my wrath is turned away from them. I will be like the dew for Israel; he shall blossom like the lily; He shall strike root like the Lebanon cedar, and put forth his shoots. His splendor shall be like the olive tree and his fragrance like the Lebanon cedar. Again they shall dwell in his shade and raise again; they shall blossom like the vine, and his fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon." Better days are ahead yet how do we get there? One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus responds, "This is the first: Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The scribe answers, "To do this is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." Wow, did you hear what the scribe says, "To do this is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." The fullness of our days with our Lord will return yet they are here now. We are forced into human distancing but our social interaction begins with God and flows to our neighbor. We have need to fast from the Eucharist but Jesus is ever more present among us. How great God's love is for us. Maybe we can return to the Lord and realize again this bountiful and beautiful gift. "Let him who is wise understand these things; let him who is prudent know them. Straight are the paths of the Lord, in them the just walk, but sinners stumble in them." (Hosea 14:10)

Peace,

RevKev

<http://www.usccb.org/>"I am the Lord your God: hear my voice."