



St. Gregory the Great, (540-604) is a central figure of the medieval western Church and one of the most admired Popes in history. He was known as "the Father of Christian Worship" because of his exceptional efforts in revising the Roman worship of his day.

First Reading: *(Col 1:15-20)* Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities - all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Ps 99:2-5

**R./ Come before the Lord, singing
for joy.**

Gospel: *(Lk 5:33-39)* The Pharisees and the scribes said to Jesus, "The disciples of John fast often and offer prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours eat and drink." And Jesus said to them, "Can you make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? The days will come, when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days." He told them a parable also: "No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it upon an old garment; if he does, he will tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; if he does, the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine desires new; for he says, 'The old is good.'"

REFLECTION

Jesus compares himself to the bridegroom and his disciples to the bridegroom's closest friends. To be with Jesus is a matter of joy. The man who walks with Christ walks in the radiance of joy. For John's disciples the time of sorrow had come because John was already in prison. For Jesus' disciples that time of sorrow would most certainly come. It is only the joy of heaven which lasts forever, and if we have it on our hearts, nothing can take it away. **Jesus is saying to the disciples; "as you have experienced the joy of following me can you also go through the trouble, the hardship, the suffering of the Cross?"**