

The Feast of **Our Lady of Ransom** commemorates the foundation of the Mercedarians. (A mendicant order established in 1218 by St. Peter Nolasco for ransoming the Christian slaves under the patronage of our Lady of Ransom) Today's feast is a memorial of the strength she puts forth for the deliverance of her people.



First Reading: (*Hag 1:15b - 2:9*) In the second year of Darius the king, in the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet, "Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to all the remnant of the people, and say, 'Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? How do you see it now? Is it not in your sight as nothing? Yet now take courage, O Zerubbabel, says the Lord; take courage, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; take courage, all you people of the land, says the Lord; work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts, according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit abides among you; fear not. For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill

this house with splendour, says the Lord of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. The latter splendour of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts."

Ps 42:1-4

R./ Hope in God; I will praise him still, my saviour and my God

Gospel: (*Lk 9:18-22*) It happened that as he was praying alone the disciples were with him; and he asked them, "Who do the people say that I am?" And they answered, "John the Baptist; but others say, Elijah; and others, that one of the old prophets has risen." And he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And Peter answered, "The Christ of God." But he charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, saying, "The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."

REFLECTION

The question of Jesus is to orient the disciples to form a vision about the Son of God. When demanded a personal opinion Peter, representing the other disciples confesses the mystery of faith; You are the Christ of God. **But Jesus forbids them from revealing this mystery that they may not be limited with the glorious status of the Son of God but to proclaim Christ the crucified** (1 Cor 2:2). Jesus demands that one should come down from the glorious status of power and position to the reality of life that is very much present in the surroundings. Are we ready to come out of our glorious/comfort zones to proclaim Christ the crucified?