

Daily Homily  
First Week in Lent, Wednesday  
[24 February 2021](#)

Jonah is all over the readings for this Lenten day. Jesus even refers to him in the Gospel. Why? He is the prophet of repentance.

If you remember his story... here it is in a nutshell... Jonah is called by God to go and preach repentance to the Ninevites. Jonah and his people hate the people of Nineveh. Jonah doesn't want them to repent. So Jonah runs from God's call. He boards a ship that is to set sail in the opposite direction of Nineveh. A storm like none other overtakes the ship. The crew recognize that this storm is an act of God and they discern that it's Jonah's fault. They throw him overboard. The storm subsides. A whale swallows Jonah whole, and spews him out on the beach of the city of Nineveh. And so Jonah follows through on what God commands. He tells the city of Nineveh to repent. Much to Jonah's surprise, the city repents... not only it's citizens but every animal in the city... cows, goats, dogs... they all put on sackcloth and ashes in repentance. Jonah, while a reluctant prophet, is a mighty prophet indeed.

Given all of this, Jesus says... something greater than Jonah is here.

The other reference is to Solomon, a king. He succeeded his father David. It was Solomon who brought Israel to unity, to being an influence in the society, to being a strong force. Solomon is known for his success at everything, especially known for his wisdom.

Jesus says... something greater than Solomon is here.

So the question is... do you believe Jesus is greater than Jonah ... is greater than Solomon ... and even if you know nothing or care nothing about Jonah and Solomon ... do you believe that Jesus is the greatest person in your life?

As you receive him in this Eucharist, that's the question to mull over in the silence of our prayer. That's the question to sit with today. The work of Lent then becomes keeping him there as the greatest. If he's not there as the greatest, the work of Lent becomes repent of whatever or whoever is there in that place because for us as Christians, that place of the greatest – it belongs to Jesus alone.