

He was born in Budapest in 1874, and Eric Weisz was an illusionist and stunt performer.

His stage name was Harry Houdini, and was most famous for his sensational escape acts.

In today's First Reading, we hear the Prophet Isaiah saying:

*... to the prisoners: Come out!
To those in darkness: Show yourselves!*

And as an admonition he reminds us that:

*... the LORD comforts his people
and shows mercy to his afflicted.*

And, indeed ... as our Lord tells us in the Gospel:

*... [He] do[es] not seek [His] own will
but the will of the [Father] ...*

And in this is an answer as we begin to wrap up our Lenten practices.

None of us are escape artists - in that we cannot escape ourselves. Only the Precious Blood of Jesus, poured out in His Sacrifice on Calvary, and re-presented at this altar, will provide us with the power we need to escape the habits and weaknesses that hinder our spiritual growth.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us pray for the grace that we might live in God's will. If we are in darkness, let us come into the light. If we are a prisoner to any sin, let us come out. Never under our own power, but through the grace and mercy of God, our Father . . . through our Savior, Jesus Christ . . . and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

May we, with God's grace . . . persevere . . . and have a fruitful last few weeks of Lent . . . that we may rejoice in His power in our lives . . . at Easter.