

Readings, Psalm, and Gospel
Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 17, 2024

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* The paragraphing does not correspond to the original biblical texts.

First Reading

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH

(JEREMIAH 31:31-34)

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord.

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

For the word of the Lord.

Psalm 51:1-13 (first option)

REFRAIN Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;
in your great compassion blot out my offences.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness and
cleanse me from my sin. R

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your
sight. R

And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your
judgement.

Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my
mother's womb. R

For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make
me understand wisdom secretly.

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I
shall be clean indeed. R

Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have
broken may rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. R

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy Spirit from me.

Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. R

Psalm 119:9-16 (second option)

How shall a young man cleanse his way? By keeping to your words.

With my whole heart I seek you; let me not stray from your commandments.

I treasure your promise in my heart, that I may not sin against you.

Blessed are you, O Lord; instruct me in your statutes.

With my lips will I recite all the judgements of your mouth.

I have taken greater delight in the way of your decrees than in all manner of riches.

I will meditate on your commandments and give attention to your ways.

My delight is in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

Second Reading

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

(HEBREWS 5:5-10)

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Gospel

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

(JOHN 12:20-33)

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. Now my soul is troubled.

And what should I say - 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder.

Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Gospel of Christ.