

# FAITH FOR SUNDAY

March 17, 2024 Year B

Fifth Sunday in Lent



## OPENING PRAYER

**+In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen**

Father God, thank you for this time with you. May the Holy Spirit be upon me, that I may receive wisdom from your Word, be open to Your holy Will and give glory to You always. Through Christ our Lord, Amen

Our Father + Hail Mary + Glory Be

## LECTIO DIVINA

Invite the Holy Spirit - Read - Reflect - Respond in Prayer - Rest in Silence

**Gospel: John 12:20-33 [YEAR B] \*FOR SCRUTINIES, YEAR A - JOHN 11:1-45, THE RAISING OF LAZARUS**

Some Greeks who had come to worship at the Passover Feast came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we would like 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. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me. "I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.

Jesus' public ministry is coming to a close as his glorification begins. Jesus has become a model for his disciples to follow. What does it mean to die to self? What do you think it means to hate your life? How willing are we to give everything up to follow Christ? Do you feel prepared to face God's judgement?

**Reading I: Jeremiah 31: 31-34**

The days are 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 I made with their fathers the day I took them by the hand to lead them forth from the land of Egypt; for they broke my covenant, and I had to show myself their master, 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 place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer will they have need to teach their friends and relatives how to know the LORD. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the LORD, for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more.

In this short but hopeful passage, God extends a new promise to His people, one that is written in their hearts. Why do you think God found it necessary to do this? God continues to reach out to forgive and forget the sins of the people. What does this demonstrate about God's new covenant? How can we put this attitude into practice to create stronger relationships with others?

## Notes

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM RESPONSE:** Create a clean heart in me, O God..

**Reading II: Hebrews 5:7-9**

In the days when Christ Jesus was in the flesh, he offered 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 reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

Christ's whole life was a salvific offering to God on our behalf. His passion was the source of our salvation. Do you think suffering and obedience is required of us today? How can we be made perfect through suffering? In what ways can we demonstrate sacrifice and obedience to God? Are we doing it out of fear or out of love of the Lord?

*Did you know?*

The raising of Lazarus is a miracle of Jesus recounted only in the Gospel of John in the New Testament (John 11:1-44).

This miracle demonstrated to His disciples that He is the Savior. He proved He has the power to raise us from death. Jesus explained quite clearly that His purpose was to reveal God's glory.



**Feast days this week**

**SUNDAY 17 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**MONDAY 18 LENTEN WEEKDAY**  
**TUESDAY 19 ST. JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BVM, SOLEMNITY**  
**WEDNESDAY 20 LENTEN WEEKDAY**  
**THURSDAY 21 LENTEN WEEKDAY**  
**FRIDAY 22 LENTEN WEEKDAY**  
**SATURDAY 23 LENTEN WEEKDAY**

*reflect*

What is my obedience to God rooted in - out of love or fear?

*pray*

Father God, help me see sacrifice towards others as a gift and not a burden. Through Christ our Lord, Amen

*live*

When our hearts are full of love, any sacrifice will be easy.