

Sunday, March 25, 2012
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion

Worship Assistants

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31–34

A reading from _____.

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It 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. ³³But 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. ³⁴No 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 51:1–12

Refrain: Create in me a clean heart, O God. (Ps. 51:10)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your ¹steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out ¹my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through ¹from my wickedness,
and cleanse me ¹from my sin.**

³For I know ¹my offenses,
and my sin is ev- ¹er before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil ¹in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak
and right ¹in your judgment. R**

⁵Indeed, I was born ¹steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my ¹mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth ¹deep within me,**

and would have me know wisdom | deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

**⁸Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice. R**

⁹Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.

**¹⁰Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

**¹²Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit. R**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5–10

A reading from _____.

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

⁵So also 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";

⁶as he says also in another place,
"You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek."

⁷In 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. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 12:20–33

The holy gospel according to _____.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very 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. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷Now 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. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We cry to you for help, O God, praying for the church, the world, and all those who are in need.

You write a new covenant on our hearts. We pray for those who will be washed in the waters of baptism this Easter, and also their families and sponsors. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You make creation bear fruit. We pray for farmers and ranchers; for animals coming out of hibernation; for deserts and tundra, where living conditions are harsh. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You draw all people to yourself. We pray for nations preparing for elections; for countries suffering from fires, floods, storms, or famines (*especially*); for those living in refugee camps.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You know the troubles of our souls. We pray for those waiting for answers to prayers; for those whose lives are full of tears; for those sick in body or spirit (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You renew a right spirit within us. We pray for this assembly, for our pastor/s, members, and visitors, that we might see Jesus in one another and in the stranger. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You are the source of eternal salvation. We remember before you the faithful witnesses who have gone before us (*especially Mary, on this festival of the Annunciation of Our Lord*), and now rest forever in your peace. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Now is the acceptable time to offer our prayers to you, God of grace and truth. Receive them in your mercy, and grant us all that we need, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

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