

Sunday, March 17, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Prayer for the Morning

God is our God, and we are his people: come, let us adore!
Glory to the Father...Amen.

Hymn **Meter: LM**

The love of God is shown to all
In Christ our Savior's wounded heart;
He asks us now to share his cross
And in his passion to take part.
We are the Father's gift to Christ
Who loves his own until the end;
His burden light we bear with joy,
And gladly to his yoke we bend.
Praise Father, Son and Spirit blest,
Eternal Trinity sublime,
Who make their home in humble hearts,
Indwelling to the end of time.

Canticle **Ezekiel 36:24-28**

I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (Jer 31:33)

Hearts of stone, broken by the idols chosen in place of God, broken as the stone tablets of the law were broken at the foot of Mount Sinai, cannot hold the living waters of God's love. Through the death and Resurrection of Christ, we will be given new hearts, washed clean in the tears of Christ.

I will take you away from among the nations,
gather you from all the foreign lands,
and bring you back to your own land.
I will sprinkle clean water upon you
to cleanse you from all your impurities,
and from all your idols I will cleanse you.
I will give you a new heart
and place a new spirit within you,
taking from your bodies your stony hearts
and giving you natural hearts.
I will put my spirit within you
and make you live by my statutes,
careful to observe my decrees.
You shall live in the land I gave your fathers;
you shall be my people,
and I will be your God!

Word of God

Jeremiah 24:7

I will give them a heart with which to understand that I am the Lord. They shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart.

My dwelling shall be with them; I will be their God and they shall be my people. (Ez 37:27)

Canticle of Zechariah

All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord, for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more. (Jer 31:34)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father...

Intercessions

God is faithful to his promises. In hope, we pray:

R/Teach us, O Lord!

That we may learn anew this Lent the depths of your law of love: **R/**

That we may grow this Lent in our fidelity to the covenant into which we were baptized: **R/**

That those who are preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation may know the joy to be found through the renewal of heart you offer: **R/**

Personal intentions

Our Father....

O Lord our God, you make new the human race in the mystery of the cross. As we prepare to celebrate this mystery with love and devotion, renew and deepen us in our commitment to the Gospel, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 17, 2024
Fifth Sunday in Lent – Cycle A

Reading 1 **Ezekiel 37:12-14**

Thus says the Lord God: O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people! I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the Lord. I have promised, and I will do it, says the Lord.

Reading 2 **Romans 8:8-11**

Brothers and sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the One who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit dwelling in you.

Gospel **John 11:1-45**

The sisters of Lazarus sent word to Jesus saying, "Master, the one you love is ill." When Jesus heard this he said, "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then after this he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he

dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

He became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him." But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?"

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him..

Men of St. Joseph Prayer

St. Joseph, help me to be like you. Help me to be obedient to the teachings of the Church and faithful to God's commands. Help me to patiently endure my cross each day. Let me be a model of holiness and a pillar of virtue. I solemnly promise to embrace God's will and I accept the challenge to work tirelessly for my family's salvation. Be my guide and companion on this journey. St. Joseph, terror of demons, pray for us!

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