

Fifth Sunday in Lent



The Collect Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Old Testament Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the LORD,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched
like a wick:
Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not
perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

The Psalm

Psalm 126

1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.

- 2 Then was our mouth filled with
laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The LORD has done great things
for them."
4 The LORD has done great things for
us, *
and we are glad indeed.
5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, *
like the watercourses of the
Negev.
6 Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.
7 Those who go out weeping, carrying
the seed, *
will come again with joy,
shouldering their sheaves.

The Epistle

Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have

made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Gospel John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Prayers of the People

Priest: As we gather in this sacred space on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, we are reminded of the extravagant love and devotion demonstrated by Mary in the Gospel of John. Let us bring our prayers before God, who calls us to love fiercely and serve humbly.

Intercessor:

For the Church, that we may embody the spirit of extravagant love and devotion in all that we do, offering ourselves fully to God and to one another. We pray to the Lord.
Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For leaders of nations and communities, that they may be inspired by selfless love to seek justice, peace, and reconciliation, transforming our world

into a place of compassion and understanding. We pray to the Lord.
Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who feel overlooked or unloved, that they may experience the embrace of God's love through our actions and words, and that we may be instruments of healing and hope in their lives. We pray to the Lord.
Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For our families and friends, that we may cultivate relationships marked by generosity and sacrifice, reflecting the love that Mary showed as she anointed Jesus with precious ointment. We pray to the Lord.
Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who are suffering from illness, grief, or despair, that they may find comfort in the extravagant love of God and the support of our community. We pray to the Lord.
Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the homeless, the hungry, and the marginalized, that our hearts may be moved to act in love and compassion, providing for their needs and advocating for their dignity. We pray to the Lord.
Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For ourselves, that we may be open to the transformative power of God's love, willing to let go of our fears and insecurities and embrace a life of devotion and service. We pray to the Lord.
Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest:

Gracious God, we thank You for the gift of Your extravagant love, exemplified in the life of Jesus and the acts of devotion around Him. As we continue our Lenten journey, help us to reflect this love in our lives, drawing us closer to You and to one another. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.