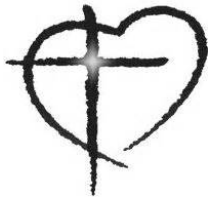
The Fifth Sunday of Lent year B



Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder
the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding
of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

The First Reading: 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.

Psalm 51.1–13

Have mercy on me, O God,
in your great goodness;•
according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness •
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my faults•
and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned•
and done what is evil in your sight,

So that you are justified
in your sentence •
and righteous in your judgement.

I have been wicked even from my birth,•
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

Behold, you desire truth deep within me•
and shall make me understand wisdom in the depths of my heart.

Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean;•
wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

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

Turn your face from my sins•
and blot out all my misdeeds.

Make 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 again the joy of your salvation•
and sustain me with your gracious spirit;

The Epistle: 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 for ever,
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.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for
the least of our brothers and sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will
to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign,
now and for ever.

The Gospel of John 12.20–33

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.