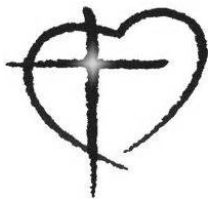


THE FIFTH
SUNDAY
OF LENT YEAR B



*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.