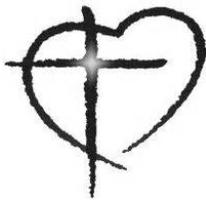


THE FIFTH  
SUNDAY  
OF LENT YEAR B



*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.