

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Year C

3rd April 2022

Violet

Prayer of the Day

O God,
the Redeemer of all who trust in you:
heed the cry of your people,
and deliver us from the bondage of sin,
that we may serve you in perfect freedom
and rejoice in your unfailing love;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah, *Chapter 43 beginning at Verse 16*

- ¹⁶ Thus says the Lord,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸ Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
¹⁹ 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.
²⁰ 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,
21 the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise. [NRSV Isaiah 43.16–21]

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**

Psalm 126

1 When the Lord turned again the fortunes of Zion:
then were we like those restored to life.
2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter:
and our tongue with singing.
3 Then said they among the heathen:
'The Lord has done great things for them.'
4 Truly the Lord has done great things for us:
and therefore we rejoiced.
5 Turn again our fortunes, O Lord:
as the streams return to the dry south.
6 Those who sow in tears:
shall reap with songs of joy.
7 They that go out weeping, bearing the seed:
shall come again in gladness,
bringing their sheaves with them.

A reading from the letter to the Phillipians,

Chapter 3 beginning at Verse 3

³For it is we who are the circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God^[a] and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh— ⁴even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised 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; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More 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 ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ,^[b] the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ^[c] and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal;^[d] but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved,^[e] I do not consider that I have made it my own;^[f] but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly^[g] call of God in Christ Jesus. [NRSV Philippians 3.3–14]

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John,

Chapter 12 beginning at Verse 1

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

12 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them^[a] with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii^[b] and the money given to the poor?" ⁶(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.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it^[c] so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

[NRSV John 12.1–8]

This is the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sentence

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.