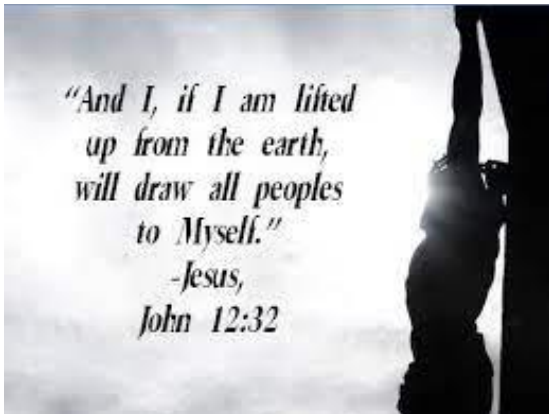


Our Lady of Loretto and St Michael

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus lifted high on the Cross. Kyrie Eleison
All Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison

Christ Jesus drawing all to yourself. Christe Eleison
All Christe Eleison, Christe Eleison

Lord Jesus dying for our sins. Kyrie Eleison
All Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison

FIRST READING A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, ‘Learn to know the Lord!’ No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

The word of the Lord.

R. A pure heart create for me, O God.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you. **R.**

SECOND READING A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation. **The word of the Lord.**

**Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
If a man serves me, says the Lord, he must follow me;
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!**



GOSPEL A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, ‘Sir, we should like to see Jesus.’ Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

‘Now the hour has come
for the Son of Man to be glorified.
I tell you, most solemnly,
unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,
it remains only a single grain;
but if it dies,
it yields a rich harvest.
Anyone who loves his life loses it;
anyone who hates his life in this world
will keep it for the eternal life.
If a man serves me, he must follow me,
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.
If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.
Now my soul is troubled.

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

What shall I say:

Father, save me from this hour?

But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.'

Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown.

And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord**

(All Bow until Mary)

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died and was buried;

he descended into hell;

on the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand

of God the Father almighty;

from there he will come

to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and life everlasting. Amen.

This Sunday's Themes

Jeremiah and the New Covenant

The new covenant, as described in the first reading from Jeremiah, signifies a profound shift from a relationship based on external laws to one that is internal and heart-based. This covenant highlights

God's promise to be in a more intimate and direct relationship with His people, where His laws are written on their hearts, ensuring a deeper, personal connection with God.

Hebrews

The Letter to the Hebrews depicts Jesus' obedience as coming through His sufferings. It shows that His earnest prayers and submission to God's will, even when it led to suffering, were heard because of His reverence. This teaches that obedience to God can involve challenges and hardships, but it ultimately leads to salvation.

John's Gospel – The Grain of Wheat

The metaphor of the grain of wheat, used in the Gospel for the 5th Sunday of Lent Year B, illustrates the principle that true life and fruitfulness often require sacrifice. Just as a grain of wheat must die to produce many seeds, so must we let go of our lives in some way to gain eternal life. This metaphor is particularly poignant during Lent as it echoes the sacrifice of Jesus and calls for self-denial and service.

Drawing all to Himself

Jesus' statement about drawing all people to Himself refers to the universal scope of His mission. His crucifixion is not just a moment of suffering but a pivotal event that offers salvation to everyone, regardless of their background. It underscores the inclusivity of Jesus' love and the reach of His saving grace.

Divine assurance amid human doubt

The readings, especially the Gospel where a divine voice affirms Jesus' mission, offer a powerful message of divine assurance. This moment and the mixed reactions of the crowd highlight the challenges of faith and understanding. They remind us that, despite human doubts and misunderstandings, God's plan is unfolding, and we are called to trust in His promises.

Conclusions

The themes of this teach us about the transformative power of an intimate relationship with God, the value of obedience and sacrifice, the importance of self-denial for the sake of others, and the universal call to salvation. These lessons encourage us to open our hearts to God's law, to embrace life's challenges as paths to growth, and to live in service and love for the benefit of all.