

# The Fifth Sunday of Lent *Passiontide begins Purple or Lent Array*

## *Collect*

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.

## **Jeremiah 31.31-34**

## **A New Covenant**

*At a time of national disaster the statesman Jeremiah realises that the original relationship between God and his Chosen People has broken down. A "New Covenant" will be based on individual and personal knowledge of God.*

<sup>31</sup> 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. <sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> 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. <sup>34</sup> 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.

## **Psalms 51**

## **Prayer for Cleansing and Pardon**

To the leader. A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

- <sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.
- <sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.
- <sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.
- <sup>4</sup> Against you, you alone, have I sinned,

and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless when you pass judgement.

<sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born guilty,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

<sup>6</sup> You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

<sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

<sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.

## **Hebrews 5.5-10**

*In Jewish temple worship only the High Priest was allowed to enter the Inner Sanctuary - the Divine Presence - to pray for the people. The Epistle to the Hebrews explores passages from the Psalms to point to Jesus as the perfect High Priest - perfect because He has shared human suffering.*

<sup>5</sup> So also 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';

<sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place,

'You are a priest for ever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.'

<sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

## **John 12.20-33**

## **Some Greeks Wish to See Jesus**

*Foreign visitors to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival hope to meet a successful Galilean preacher. But Jesus predicts his death, which in St. John's Gospel is understood as glorification!*

20 Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>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. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

27 '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. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

## *Post Communion*

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.