

At Home Liturgy of the Word, March 21, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Cycle B

+In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER, leader

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness,
who in fasting, prayer, and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin,
look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed
down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy.
We pray through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with
you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

- I. A. **Jeremiah 31:31-34** (*Old Testament*) *Find this scripture passage in your Bible and have someone read it.*
- B. *Spend a few moments reflecting on this reading. Then all who wish can share what thought comes to mind, like a reference to another scripture passage, a memory from one's life, a song, a dream, a statement, or the word or phrase from this passage that you remember or like the most; or draw the picture that stayed in your mind. This is to be short and simple, with no discussion at this time.*

II. PSALM RESPONSE, *read together* **Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14, & 17**

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned. (3a)

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness;
in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense.
Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me. **R.**

For I acknowledge my offense, and my sin is before me always:
“Against you only have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight.” **R.**

A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me.
Cast me not out from your presence, and your Holy Spirit take not from me. **R.**

Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me.
O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. **R.**

III. A. **Hebrews 5:7-9** (*New Testament*); *Find this scripture passage in your Bible and have someone read it.*

B. *Spend a few moments reflecting on this reading. Then all who wish can share what thought comes to mind as before.*

IV. A. **John 12:20-33** (*New Testament*); *Find this scripture passage in your Bible and have someone read it.*

B. *Spend a few moments reflecting on this reading. Then all who wish can share what thought comes to mind as before.*

V. Now, spend some time discussing how these readings relate to your lives. These three discussion questions* may be helpful:

1. Whose life and struggles encourage you?
2. Relate a time when you lost out but later were strengthened by this experience.
3. What struggles have you let go of? What struggles did you surrender to?

VI. PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: Let us petition our God who enlightens the darkness of the world.

Reader:

1. For the elect, and for all candidates for confirmation and first communion who grow to love and seek virtue and holiness of life, we pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**
2. For all who embrace the discipline of Lent as a means of purification and who approach the Sacrament of Penance with trust in God's mercy, we pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**
3. For all who do not renounce self and who do not put others first, we pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**
4. For our families who put their hope in Christ and find peace in Christ, we pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**
5. For all who do not accept the call to conversion with an open heart and who hesitate to make the personal changes conversion requires of us, we pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**
6. For all who seek a change of heart, who give themselves to prayer, and who persevere in their good works in preparation for the Easter feast, especially all of us not able to share in communion this Sunday, we pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Other intercessions may be added. If praying for an individual or a certain group of people, conclude the intercession with praying for all in that specific situation.

LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Let us hold each other in spiritual communion with all members of the Church, as we dare to say:

Our Father who art in heaven...For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever.

CONCLUDING PRAYER, leader

Loving God, you are always doing something new, always looking for a better way for us. We ask you to hear our prayers that we make in the name of Jesus Christ, the one who is our Lord for ever and ever.

*Discussion questions are taken from *Faith Sharing for Small Church Communities, Questions and Commentaries on the Sunday Readings*, © 1993, National Alliance for Parishes Restructuring into Communities.