

April 02 2020; Thursday of the Fifth Week of Lent

<http://usccb.org/bible/readings/040220.cfm>

“The Lord Remembers His Covenant”

Our Responsorial Psalm reminds us of our cause for joy: *“The Lord remembers his covenant forever.”*

To Abraham and his descendants, God vowed *“the whole land of Canaan (the “Promised Land”), as a permanent possession.”* Likewise in our Gospel, Jesus, God incarnate -- infuriating the Pharisees by saying, *“...before Abraham came to be, I AM”* -- promises the Jews, *“whoever keeps my word will never see death.”*



As God pledged an earthly “Promised Land” to His chosen people, so did Christ vow eternal life to us. But as with all covenants, this is a covenant that requires our participation... God told Abraham, *“On your part, you and your descendants... must keep my covenant...”* Jesus told the Jews His promise of eternal life belonged to *“whoever keeps my word.”* And this, of course, is where things start falling apart: for we as a people, we as individuals, have a long history of falling well short of keeping God’s covenants, of keeping Christ’s word...

“The Lord remembers his covenant forever” but we do not... Praise be to Jesus Christ who would soon offer His own Precious Blood on the Cross as “a new and everlasting covenant” to atone for our failures!

In this time of sad deprivation of the Mass, may our appreciation for it soar to new heights – the renewal of our covenant with God, with Christ as our Victim and Priest, and may we never again take it for granted..!

Peace,

Dcn Ron