

## Our Lady of Perpetual Help

# Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT—APRIL 7, 2019

### First Reading — Isaiah 43:16-21

<sup>16</sup> Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, <sup>17</sup> who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: <sup>18</sup> “Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. <sup>19</sup> Behold, I am doing 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. <sup>20</sup> The wild beasts 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, <sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.

### Responsorial Psalm PS 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6.

R. (3) **The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion,

we were like men dreaming.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with rejoicing.

R. **The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

Then they said among the nations,

“The LORD has done great things for them.”

The LORD has done great things for us;  
we are glad indeed.

R. **The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,

like the torrents in the southern desert.

Those that sow in tears  
shall reap rejoicing.

R. **The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

Although they go forth weeping,

carrying the seed to be sown,  
They shall come back rejoicing,  
carrying their sheaves.

R. **The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

### Second Reading — Philippians 3:8-14

<sup>8</sup> Indeed I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as refuse, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own, based on law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith; <sup>10</sup> that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup> Brethren, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

### Gospel Reading — John 8:1-11

<sup>1</sup> ...But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. <sup>2</sup> Early in the morning he came again to the temple; all the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. <sup>3</sup> The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst <sup>4</sup> they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. <sup>5</sup> Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such. What do you say about her?” <sup>6</sup> This they said to test him, that they might have some

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charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. <sup>7</sup> And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." <sup>8</sup> And once more he bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. <sup>9</sup> But when they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the eldest, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. <sup>10</sup> Jesus looked up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" <sup>11</sup> She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again."

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### INVITATION TO PRAY

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God...

### Proclaim the Scriptures out loud

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

### INVITATION TO REFLECT

### INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

#### First Reading — Isaiah 43:16-21

1. What is meant by a “desert” or “wilderness” experience?
2. How has God used desert or wilderness experiences to “make a way” which you ultimately recognized as his new and good direction for you?

#### Second Reading — 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

3. Explain what it means to have “a righteousness of my own.”
4. Restate in your own words Paul’s desires, found in verses 9 and 10. Which part of Paul’s statement is most meaningful to you?

#### Gospel Reading — Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

5. In what aspect of life do you find yourself being most judgmental?
6. How can we develop and maintain righteous judgment about things, yet insure that we don’t become condemning in the way we relate to people?
7. Regarding Jesus’ statement, “Neither do I condemn you,” would you say that you quickly mirror this response towards others or are you usually slow in applying this attitude?

### INVITATION TO ACT

*Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.*

### CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY

*Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another’s openness and sensitivity. Conclude with a final prayer.*