

Readings – Fifth Sunday in Lent 06-04-2025

Sentence

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Psalm 126.6

Collect

O God,
the Redeemer of all who trust in you:
heed the cry of your people,
and deliver us from the bondage of sin,
that we may serve you in perfect freedom
and rejoice in your unfailing love;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Isiah 43: 16-21

Our first reading is taken from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 43 beginning at verse 16

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸ Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹ I am about to do 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.

²⁰ The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹ the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126

Our Psalm today comes from Psalm 126. I will read one verse, and I invite you to respond with the next verse,

¹ When the Lord turned again the fortunes of Zion: then were we like those restored to life.

² **Then was our mouth filled with laughter: and our tongue with singing.**

³ Then said they among the heathen: 'The Lord has done great things for them.'

⁴ **Truly the Lord has done great things for us: and therefore we rejoiced.**

⁵ Turn again our fortunes, O Lord: as the streams return to the dry south.

⁶ **Those who sow in tears: shall reap with songs of joy.**

⁷ They that go out weeping, bearing the seed: shall come again in gladness, bringing their sheaves with them.

Philippians 3: 3-14

Our second reading is taken from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians, Chapter 3, beginning at Verse 3

³ For it is we who are the circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh— ⁴ even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

John 12: 1-8

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John,
Chapter 12, beginning at Verse 1,

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.