

Readings at Mass for the Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year C)

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 43.16-21

A reading from the Prophet, Isaiah

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters; who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior: they lie down; they cannot rise; they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

'Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. 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. The wild beasts 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, the people whom I formed for myself, that they might declare my praise.'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 126(125).1-2B, 2C-3, 4-5, 6; R. V. 3

R. What great deeds the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we were glad.

When the Lord brought back the exiles of Sion,
we thought we were dreaming.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter;
on our tongues, songs of joy. **R.**

Then they said among the nations,
'What great deeds the Lord worked for them!
What great deeds the Lord worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad.' **R.**

Bring back our exiles, O Lord,
as streams in the Negeb.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. **R.**

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
bearing seed for the sowing;
they come back, they come back with a song,
bearing their sheaves. **R.**

SECOND READING

PHILIPPIANS 3.8-14

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians
Brothers and sisters: 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 rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him - not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith - that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

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. *Brothers and sisters, 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, I press on towards the goal, for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**R. Praise to you, O Christ,
King of eternal glory!**

Even now, *says the Lord*, return to me with all your heart, for I am gracious and merciful. **R.**

GOSPEL

JOHN 8.1-11

At that time: Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning, he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, placing her in the midst, they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now, in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?' This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. 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.' And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones; and Jesus was left alone with the woman who was standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, Lord.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.'

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

**Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.**

The numbers of this evening's Entrance and Offertory hymns are displayed on the boards on the pillars.

This evening's incense is Flowers of Wessex.