

Fifth Sunday in Lent

18 March 2018

The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.
John 3.14-15

Collect

Lord of the new covenant,
in Christ you draw all people to yourself:
may we die with him to the powers of hate
and let him show us a world loved by you,
through Jesus Christ, the fruitful grain. **Amen.**

A Reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah

This is one of the key passages in the Hebrew scriptures. The new covenant is not based on the written law, though that is not set aside, but on a personal relationship between God and Israel. This anticipates the stress, not on the law, but on faith (which means trust) and a personal relationship with God which Jesus lived in fulfillment of the law.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Reader For the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Psalm 119.9-16 APBA page 353

A meditation on God's law, called Torah in Hebrew which means far more than rules. Torah is a way of life, a perspective and habits that bring a true fullness of life if lived faithfully.

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

In Jewish typology Melchizedek had neither beginning nor an end of life, and so the writer of the letter (it is not Paul and may have been Priscilla or another woman) is using this as an image or foreshadowing of the eternity of Christ. The writer refers to Christ sharing human weakness and suffering in order to show how that makes him a source of salvation because of his faithful life.

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek. About this we have much to say that is hard to explain, since you have become dull in understanding. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic elements of the oracles of God. You need

Pray for the Faithful Departed

We remember before God: Patricia Wuchatsch, Leonard Dixon, John Brooke Scott, Arthur Emery, Jillian Gosper, Alastair Reginald Stephen, Maria Mercer, Howard Jenkins, Mary Newton and Laura Gregory

whose anniversaries occur this week.

Commemorations of the week:

March 19. Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

What is known of him is contained in Matthew Ch 1 & 2 and 13.35 and in Luke Ch 1 & 2 and 3.23 and 4.22. **March 20. Cuthbert, of Lindisfarne** (c.634-687). Bishop and missionary. Cuthbert was born in Northumbria, became a monk in 651 and led various monasteries in England, then became Prior of Lindisfarne 664 and later bishop.

March 21. Thomas Cranmer

(1489-1556). Martyr and liturgist . Archbishop of Canterbury and martyred in Oxford under Queen Mary. Cranmer is the principal drafter of the Book of Common Prayer 1549 and 1552.

March 22. Thomas Ken

(1637-1711). Bishop of Bath and Wells. Teacher and writer of devotional books. His most famous hymns are, "Awake, my soul, and with the sun" and "Glory to thee, my God, this night".

March 24.

Paul Couturier. (d. 1953). One of the leaders of the ecumenical movement.

life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

John 12:20-33

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord

ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Bible Readings next week.

Palms reading outside the church building at 10am: John 12. 12-18.

Palm/Passion Sunday

25 March 2018

Is. 50.4-9a Ps. 31.9-18 Philippians 2.5-11 Mark 14.1-15.27

Prayer for the Week

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new:

transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,

and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

milk, not solid food; for everyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is unskilled in the word of righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil. *Hebrews 1.1-14*

Reader May your word live in us.

All And bear much fruit to your glory.

Gospel Acclamation

All Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!

Cantor If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord;
and where I am my servant will also be.

All Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!

Reader The Lord be with you.

ALL And also with you.

Reader A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

ALL Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the end of the public ministry of Jesus in John's gospel, and this episode follows the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, which we celebrate on Palm Sunday. The saying about grain dying to bear fruit and of losing life to save it, prefigures Jesus' death and resurrection. Out of this event, the risen Christ will reign eternally, drawing all people to God.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival [of Passover] were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal