

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019

## First Reading

Isaiah 43:16–21

### The Book of The Prophet Isaiah

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

- <sup>1</sup> When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion:  
we were like those who dream.
- <sup>2</sup> Then our mouth was filled with laughter:  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then it was said among the nations:  
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
- <sup>3</sup> The LORD has done great things for us:  
and we rejoiced.

<sup>4</sup> Restore our fortunes, O LORD:  
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

<sup>5</sup> May those who sow in tears:  
reap with shouts of joy.

<sup>6</sup> Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing:  
shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

## **EPISTLE**

**(Philippians 3:4b–7) 8–14**

### **The Letter of Paul To the Philippians**

[<sup>4</sup> 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:  
<sup>5</sup> 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;  
<sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. <sup>7</sup> Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup> 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 <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## **Gospel**

**Luke 20:9–20**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke  
**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>9</sup> He began to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard, and leased it to tenants, and went to another country for a long time. <sup>10</sup> When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants in order that they might

give him his share of the produce of the vineyard; but the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. <sup>11</sup> Next he sent another slave; that one also they beat and insulted and sent away empty-handed. <sup>12</sup> And he sent still a third; this one also they wounded and threw out. <sup>13</sup> Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.' <sup>14</sup> But when the tenants saw him, they discussed it among themselves and said, 'This is the heir; let us kill him so that the inheritance may be ours.' <sup>15</sup> So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? <sup>16</sup> He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others." When they heard this, they said, "Heaven forbid!" <sup>17</sup> But he looked at them and said, "What then does this text mean:

'The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone'?

<sup>18</sup> Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." <sup>19</sup> When the scribes and chief priests realized that he had told this parable against them, they wanted to lay hands on him at that very hour, but they feared the people.

<sup>20</sup> So they watched him and sent spies who pretended to be honest, in order to trap him by what he said, so as to hand him over to the jurisdiction and authority of the governor.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Sentence**

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

Psalm 126.6

### **Prayer of the day**

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.**

## **Supplementary Readings**

Isaiah 52.13-53.12

Psalm 130

Luke 23.26-49

## **Prayer Response**

Lord, we come before you.

**Change us and we shall be changed.**