

Thursday 5th week in Lent

26 March 2026

First reading

Genesis 17:3-9

‘You shall be the father of a multitude of nations.’

In those days: Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, ‘Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.’

And God said to Abraham, ‘As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 105(104):4-5. 6-7. 8-9. R8a

The LORD remembers his covenant for ever.

Turn to the LORD and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

Remember the wonders he has done,
his marvels and his words of judgement.

The LORD remembers his covenant for ever.

O children of Abraham, his servant,
O descendants of the Jacob he chose,
he, the LORD, is our God;
his judgements are in all the earth.

The LORD remembers his covenant for ever.

He remembers his covenant for ever:
the promise he ordained for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac.

The LORD remembers his covenant for ever.

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 95(94):8a, 7c

Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

Harden not your hearts today,
but listen to the voice of the Lord.

Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

Gospel

John 8:51-59

‘Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day.’

At that time: Jesus said to the Jews, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.’ The Jews said to him, ‘Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, “If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.” Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out

to be?’ Jesus answered, ‘If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, “He is our God.” But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.’ So the Jews said to him, ‘You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.’ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the Temple.

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Friday 5th week in Lent

27 March 2026

First reading

Jeremiah 20:10-13

He has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.'

Jeremiah said:

I hear many whispering.

Terror is on every side!

'Denounce him! Let us denounce him!'

say all my close friends,

watching for my fall.

'Perhaps he will be deceived;

then we can overcome him

and take our revenge on him.'

But the Lord is with me as a dread warrior;

therefore my persecutors will stumble;

they will not overcome me.

They will be greatly shamed,

for they will not succeed.

Their eternal dishonour

will never be forgotten.

O Lord of hosts, who tests the righteous,

who sees the heart and the mind,

let me see your vengeance upon them,

for to you have I committed my cause.

Sing to the Lord;

praise the Lord!

For he has delivered the life of the needy

from the hand of evildoers.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18(17):2-3a. 3b-4. 5-6. 7. R cf. 7

In my anguish I called to the Lord and he heard me.

I love you, Lord, my strength;

O Lord, my rock, my fortress, my saviour.

In my anguish I called to the Lord and he heard me.

My God, my rock where I take refuge;

my shield, my saving strength, my stronghold.

I cry out, 'O praised be the Lord!'

and see, I am saved from my foes.

In my anguish I called to the Lord and he heard me.

The waves of death rose about me;

the torrents of destruction assailed me;

the snares of Sheol surrounded me;

the traps of death confronted me.

In my anguish I called to the Lord and he heard me.

In my anguish I called to the Lord;
I cried to my God for help.
From his temple he heard my voice;
my cry to him reached his ears

In my anguish I called to the Lord and he heard me.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. John 6:63c, 68c

Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life;
you have the words of eternal life.

Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

Gospel

John 10:31-42

They sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands.

At that time: The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, 'I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?' The Jews answered him, 'It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God.' Jesus answered them, 'Is it not written in your Law, "I said, you are gods"? If he called them gods to whom the word of God came — and Scripture cannot be broken — do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, "You are blaspheming," because I said, "I am the Son of God"? If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.' Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands.

He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptising at first, and there he remained. And many came to him. And they said, 'John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true.' And many believed in him there.

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Saturday 5th week in Lent

28 March 2026

First reading

Ezekiel 37:21-28

'I will make them one nation.'

Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from all around, and bring them to their own land. And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. And one king shall be king over them all, and they shall be no longer two nations, and no longer divided into two kingdoms. They shall not defile themselves any more with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions. But I will save them from all the backslidings in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall walk in my rules and be careful to obey my statutes. They shall dwell in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob, where your fathers lived. They and their children and their children's children shall dwell there for ever, and David my servant shall be their prince for ever. I will make a covenant of peace with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will set them in their land and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in their midst for evermore. My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies Israel, when my sanctuary is in their midst for evermore.

Responsorial Psalm

Jeremiah 31:10. 11-12b. 13. R cf. 10d

The LORD guards us as a shepherd his flock.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations;
declare it to the distant isles and say,
'He who scattered Israel will gather him
and guard him as a shepherd his flock.'

The LORD guards us as a shepherd his flock.

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
redeemed him from a hand too strong for him.
They shall come and sing praise on the heights of Sion,
come streaming to the bounty of the LORD.

The LORD guards us as a shepherd his flock.

Then the maiden shall rejoice in a dance,
the young men and old together.
'I will change their mourning into joy;
I will console them, giving gladness for sorrow.'

The LORD guards us as a shepherd his flock.

Gospel Acclamation

Ezekiel 18:31

Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

Cast away from you all your transgressions, says the Lord,
and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit.

Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

Gospel

John 11:45-56

‘To gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.’

At that time: Many of the Jews, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him, but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, ‘What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come a both our Place and our nation.’ But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to the nothing at all. Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.’ He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

Jesus therefore no longer walked openly among the Jews, but went from there to the region near the wilderness, to a town called Ephraim, and there he stayed with the disciples.

Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves. They were looking for Jesus and saying to one another as they stood in the Temple, ‘What do you think? That he will not come to the feast at all?’

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