

Daily Readings

Friday of the First Week of Lent
27 February 2026

First reading
Ezekiel 18:21-28

**‘Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked
and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?’**

Thus says the Lord: ‘If a wicked person turns away from all his sins that he has committed and keeps all my statutes and does what is just and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the transgressions that he has committed shall be remembered against him; for the righteousness that he has done he shall live. Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live? But when a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice and does the same abominations that the wicked person does, shall he live? None of the righteous deeds that he has done shall be remembered; for the treachery of which he is guilty and the sin he has committed, for them he shall die.

‘Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is not just.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die.’

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 130(129):1-2. 3-4. 5-6b. 6c-8. R7bc

***If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?***

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the sound of my pleadings.

***If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?***

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness,
that you may be revered.

***If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?***

I long for you, O LORD,
my soul longs for his word.
My soul awaits the Lord
more than watchmen for daybreak.

***If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?***

More than watchmen for daybreak,
let Israel hope for the LORD.
For with the LORD there is mercy,
in him is plentiful redemption.
It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

***If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?***

Gospel Acclamation
Ezekiel 18:31

Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

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

Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

Gospel
Matthew 5:20-26

‘Go first, be reconciled to your brother.’

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: ‘I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgement.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgement; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.’

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