

About the Fifth Sunday in Lent

Theme: The Way of a Servant

+ *highlighting the Scriptures for the week* +

Looking far into the future, the LORD God of Israel speaks of the new covenant He will reveal to His people. (Jeremiah) Not like the covenant established at Sinai, the covenant which they broke though He was their husband, this new covenant would be based on His grace instead of their obedience - He will forgive their wickedness and blot out their sins. This new covenant was established through Jesus, who fulfilled the whole will and Law of God. (Hebrews) Obedient to the Father's will all the way to death, He demonstrated faithfulness in His suffering as both priest and victim in His sacrifice. His work is that of the Servant, not that of enjoying a soft life and being served. (Mark) His glorification was accomplished in His death upon His cross. As it was with Him, so it is with us. All the faithful who seek to save their life will lose it, while those who lose their life for His sake will keep it to all eternity.

Use the schedule below in your personal devotion. The first three readings are the lessons read today; the last three will be read next Sunday. The Wednesday reading is the psalmody for the week. Each day you may want to pray that Psalm or the prayer printed in our service folder today, followed by the suggested reading and your personal requests and Thanksgivings to our Heavenly Father.

- Sunday** Jeremiah 31:31-34 How did the LORD foretell that His new covenant would be unlike the old? What was the LORD's relationship to Israel? How did they break His covenant? How did the LORD put His new covenant into effect? Whose power and authority is the basis of this covenant? How then do you live as a child of the new covenant?
- Monday** Hebrews 5:1-10 To whom did Jesus pray in the midst of His suffering? Why was His prayer heard? How was it answered? What did Jesus learn through suffering? How therefore does He qualify as the source of our eternal salvation? What priestly sacrifice did He offer to the Father for us? What does this mean? What therefore ought to be our attitude toward suffering?
- Tuesday** Mark 10:35-45 What was the real intent of the request made by James and John? How did Jesus handle the issue? What was the reaction of the other disciples when they heard about this? Why, do you think, they were concerned? What might have been their own motivation? How does Jesus use the situation as a 'teaching moment'? What does He teach them (and us) about being a servant? What does this mean for us today?
- Wednesday** Psalm 119:9-16 This section is the second division of Psalm 119. How does it naturally follow the theme of the first section? What is the answer to the psalmist's own question? What does this mean?
- Thursday** Zechariah 9:9-10 What is surprising about the entrance of the King into the holy city? How was this prophecy fulfilled? What was to be the main feature of the Messianic Kingdom? How is His Kingdom growing among and through us? What does this mean?
- Friday** Philippians 2:5-11 How did Jesus demonstrate a humble heart? To what extent was He obedient to His heavenly Father? What consequently did He receive? What does this mean? How may we grow in this Christ-like attitude?
- Saturday** Mark 15:1-47 What was Pilate's intent regarding Jesus? Why did he instead authorize His crucifixion? How did the soldiers publicly humiliate Jesus? How did Jesus demonstrate He wanted to experience His suffering to its fullest extent? Why? What prayer of distress did Jesus pray? Why was Jesus forsaken? In what dramatic way did the death of Jesus signal open access to God's Holy Place? What was the centurion's conclusion about the true identity of Jesus?