

## Reading for Weekday in the Fourth Week in Lent

March 16th 2026

### First reading

Isaiah 65:17-21

**‘No more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress.’**

Thus says the Lord:

‘Behold, I create new heavens  
and a new earth,  
and the former things shall not be remembered  
or come to mind.

But be glad and rejoice for ever  
in that which I create;  
for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy,  
and her people to be a gladness.

I will rejoice in Jerusalem  
and be glad in my people;  
no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping  
and the cry of distress.

No more shall there be in it  
an infant who lives but a few days,  
or an old man who does not fill out his days,  
for the young man shall die a hundred years old,  
and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.  
They shall build houses and inhabit them;  
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.’

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 30(29):2, 4. 5-6. 11, 12a,13b. R2a**

*I will extol you, Lord, for you have raised me up.*

I will extol you, Lord, for you have raised me up,  
and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.

O Lord, you have lifted up my soul from Sheol,  
restored me to life from those who sink into the pit.

Sing psalms to the Lord, you faithful ones;  
give thanks to his holy name.

His anger lasts a moment; his favour all through life.

At night come tears, but dawn brings joy.

Hear, O Lord, and have mercy on me;  
be my helper, O Lord.

You have changed my mourning into dancing.

O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever.

### Gospel Acclamation

**Cf. Amos 5:14**

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

Seek good, and not evil, that you may live;  
and so the Lord will be with you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

## **Gospel**

## **John 4:43-54**

### **‘Go; your son will live.’**

At that time: Jesus departed Samaria for Galilee. (For Jesus himself had testified that a prophet has no honour in his own hometown.) So when he came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, having seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the feast. For they too had gone to the feast.

So he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. And at Capernaum there was an official whose son was ill. When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. So Jesus said to him, ‘Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe.’ The official said to him, ‘Sir, come down before my child dies.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go; your son will live.’ The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way. As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering. So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, ‘Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.’ The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, ‘Your son will live.’ And he himself believed, and all his household. This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee.

### **Short reflection on the reading for today**

Many people approached Jesus for help as he went around the villages. On this occasion a court official asked him to come to his home and cure his seriously ill son. This official was probably attached to the court of Herod Antipas. His request at first met with what seems like a refusal. But he wasn’t put off; he persevered, “come down before my child dies.” In response to this man’s perseverance, Jesus grants his request, but not in the way the man wanted. He didn’t go home with him to cure his son; he simply said, “your son will live.” The man had to believe the word of Jesus and he did just that. He returned home on his own, with the promise of Jesus in his heart, and on the way he discovered that his prayer had been answered.

When we approach the Lord in prayer, asking for his help, we too can feel that the Lord is not answering our prayer. He does not engage with us in the way we had hoped. When that happens, we must persevere in prayer, like the royal official in the gospel. Like him, we will discover that the Lord will answer our prayer, even if not in the way we expected. Like the royal official we are asked to take the Lord at his word and to travel with the Lord’s promise in our hearts.