

Reading for Weekday in the Fifth Week of Lent

March 27th 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.

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;

I cried to my God for help.

From his temple he heard my voice;

my cry to him reached his ears

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.

Short reflection on the reading for today

In today's gospel, the Jews strongly oppose Jesus because of the claims he makes about himself. "You are only a man and you claim to be God," they said. Jesus goes on to say of himself, "I am the Son of God. the Father is in me and I am in the Father." Jesus claims to have a unique relationship with God, such that whoever sees him sees God, the Father. The author of the fourth gospel puts it very graphically: the Word who was God became flesh, became enfleshed Word. Jesus is truly God in human form. That conviction is at the core of our Christian faith.

Because Jesus is the revelation of God, the healing works that he does are the work of the Father. God's work is being shown Jesus. God will always be a mystery to us, but Jesus has unveiled that mystery to draw us into the life of God. He has revealed that God is, ultimately, the fullness of Love. In the words of the first letter of Saint John, "God is Love." In the words of the gospel, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son." That is the wonderful mystery that we will be celebrating this coming Holy Week.