

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



## Clearing a Path

God our Father,  
you are our protector and our comfort.  
You have done great things for us:  
you make a way  
amid hopelessness  
and despite our sinfulness.  
Your forgiveness knows no bounds,

and though we weep now,  
we know we will soon rejoice.  
Help us announce your praise,  
relinquish our judgment of others,  
and live with our sights set on  
pursuing you.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, April 6, 2025**

**Boundless Mercy**



*Today's readings: Isaiah 43:16–21; Psalm 126:1–2, 2–3, 4–5, 6; Philippians 3:8–14; John 8:1–11.* A crowd begins to gather to hear Jesus teach in the temple. The scribes and the Pharisees bring forth a woman who had been caught in adultery. After forcing her to stand in the middle of the crowd, they test Jesus, asking what the woman's punishment should be. The law states that she should be stoned for her sin.

Jesus writes on the ground, and John leaves it to our imagination as to what his words might be. Though Jesus' written words are not revealed, the Gospel records him as saying, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." He bends down again and writes on the ground a second time. Then people leave, per-

haps humbled in the realization that they are sinners and do not have the ability to judge someone else for their sins. Have you condemned or judged another for their wrongdoing? Imagine what Jesus might write on the ground in front of you to encourage you to grow in mercy.

After the woman has been humiliated and brought to the center of a crowd (a crowd well aware of the punishment for her actions), Jesus tells her that she is not condemned. Imagine the shock and relief this woman likely felt. This Sunday, as you listen to the Gospel being proclaimed, bask in God's boundless mercy. Allow yourself to join this woman as she experiences God's unconditional love. How can you let this inspire you to be better and "not sin any more"?



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, April 7

#### Live Jesus in Our Hearts

St. John Baptist de La Salle, a passionate educator, is the patron saint of teachers. As a priest, he dedicated his time to making education accessible to impoverished children. He was devoted to training and directing teachers so they could best serve in their classrooms. De La Salle founded the De La Salle Christian Brothers, who operate education centers around the world. The Lasallian community's expression of faith is to "Live Jesus in our hearts . . . forever." St. John Baptist de La Salle, pray for us. *Today's readings: Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; John 8:12-20.*

### Tuesday, April 8

#### Speaking This Way

"Many came to believe in him [Jesus]" because of the way he spoke. His preaching focused on radical service, compassionate forgiveness, and always pointed to God the Father. How do you speak and carry yourself? Does it point to God? How can you speak in a way that is pleasing to God? *Today's readings: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21; John 8:21-30.*

### Wednesday, April 9

#### Be Free

Jesus responds to the Jews: "Everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin." To be free from sin, we must actively choose to turn to God, repent, and resolve to do better. As we approach Holy Week, schedule a time to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. Before doing so, prepare yourself with an examination of conscience. Consider journaling as a part of your prayerful reflection and bringing this to your confession. Indeed, the truth will set us free! *Today's readings: Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92; Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; John 8:31-42.*

### Thursday, April 10

#### Friendship with Jesus

Jesus answers the Jews who are persecuting him: he tells them that he knows the Father. They continue to challenge him and, in today's Gospel, throw stones at him. Set time aside today to reflect on your friendship with Jesus. What have you done to cultivate a friendship with him? What have you done to "throw stones" at him? As a part of your reflection, resolve to an action you can commit that will help you grow in relationship with Jesus: consider attending daily Mass, spending time serving someone who is impoverished, reading the Bible regularly, or visiting the elderly. *Today's readings: Genesis 17:3-9; Psalm 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; John 8:51-59.*

### Friday, April 11

#### He Heard

Joining the psalmist today, we proclaim: "In my distress I called upon the Lord, and he heard my voice." The Lord is with us in our joys and sorrows. Before you go to sleep tonight, pray with today's psalm. Begin with the sign of the cross. Read the psalm once to familiarize yourself with it. Read it a second time, paying attention to what the psalmist calls God: strength, fortress, shield. *Today's readings: Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalm 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7; John 10:31-42.*

### Saturday, April 12

#### Preparing

The end of Lent is near. Holy Week begins tomorrow with Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. Reflect on your Lenten journey today. Before Holy Week begins, check when your parish celebrates the Sacred Paschal Triduum. Set aside time to participate in this liturgy. *Today's readings: Ezekiel 37:21-28; Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13; John 11:45-56.*

