

FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Friday – 3 April 2020

Entrance Antiphon

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in distress. Deliver me from the hands of my enemies and those who pursue me. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The Lord God is with me, a mighty hero. Jeremiah said:

‘I hear so many disparaging me, “‘Terror from every side! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!’ All those who used to be my friends watched for my downfall, “Perhaps he will be seduced into error. Then we will master him and take our revenge!’ But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero; my opponents will stumble, mastered, confounded by their failure; everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs. But you, Lord of hosts, you who probe with justice, who scrutinise the loins and heart, let me see the vengeance you will take on them, for I have committed my cause to you. Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, for he has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of evil men.’

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) In my distress I called upon the Lord, and he heard my voice.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength, my rock, my fortress, my saviour. My God is the rock where I take refuge; my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. The Lord is worthy of all praise: when I call I am saved from my foes. **(R.)**

2. The waves of death rose about me; the torrents of destruction assailed me; the snares of the grave entangled me; the traps of death confronted me. **(R.)**

3. In my anguish I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came to his ears. **(R.)**

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: you have the words of everlasting life.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

They wanted to arrest him but he eluded them.

The Jews fetched stones to stone him, so Jesus said to them, ‘I have done many good works for you to see, works from my Father; for which of these are you stoning me?’ The Jews answered him, ‘We are not stoning you for doing a good work but for blasphemy: you are only a man and you claim to be God.’ Jesus answered:

‘Is it not written in your Law: I said, you are gods? So the Law used the word gods of those to whom the word of God was addressed, and scripture cannot be rejected. Yet you say to someone the Father has consecrated and sent into the world, “You are blaspheming,” because he says, “I am the Son of God.” If I am not doing my Father’s work, there is no need to believe me; but if I am doing it, then even if you refuse to believe in me, at least believe in the work I do; then you will know for sure that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.’

They wanted to arrest him then, but he eluded them. He went back again to the far side of the Jordan to stay in the district where John had once been baptising. Many people who came to him there said, ‘John gave no signs, but all he said about this man was true’; and many of them believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Communion Antiphon

Jesus bore our sins in his own body on the cross, so that dead to sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds we have been healed.