

FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Saturday – 4 April 2020

Entrance Antiphon

O Lord, do not stay afar off; my strength, make haste to help me! For I am a worm and no man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people.

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

I will make them into one nation.

The Lord says this: 'I am going to take the sons of Israel from the nations where they have gone. I shall gather them together from everywhere and bring them home to their own soil. I shall make them into one nation in my own land and on the mountains of Israel, and one king is to be king of them all; they will no longer form two nations, nor be two separate kingdoms. They will no longer defile themselves with their idols and their filthy practices and all their sins. I shall rescue them from all the betrayals they have been guilty of; I shall cleanse them; they shall be my people and I will be their God. My servant David will reign over them, one shepherd for all; they will follow my observances, respect my laws and practise them. They will live in the land that I gave my servant Jacob, the land in which your ancestors lived. They will live in it, they, their children, their children's children, for ever. David my servant is to be their prince for ever. I shall make a covenant of peace with them, an eternal covenant with them. I shall resettle them and increase them; I shall settle my sanctuary among them for ever. I shall make my home above them; I will be their God, they shall be my people. And the nations will learn that I am the Lord the sanctifier of Israel, when my sanctuary is with them for ever.'

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) The Lord will guard us, like a shepherd guarding his flock.

1. O nations, hear the word of the Lord, proclaim it to the far-off coasts. Say: 'He who scattered Israel will gather him and guard him as a shepherd guards his flock.' **(R.)**

2. For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, has saved him from an overpowering hand. They will come and shout for joy on Mount Zion, they will stream to the blessings of the Lord. **(R.)**

3. Then the young girls will rejoice and will dance, the men, young and old, will be glad. I will turn their mourning into joy. I will console them, give gladness for grief. **(R.)**

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Rid yourselves of all your sins and make a new heart and a new spirit.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

He gathered together in unity the scattered children of God.

Many of the Jews who came to visit Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him, but some of them went to tell the Pharisees what he had done. Then the chief priests and Pharisees called a meeting. 'Here is this man working all these signs' they said 'and what action are we taking? If we let him go on in this way everybody will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy the Holy Place and our nation.' One of them, Caiaphas, the high priest that year, said, 'You don't seem to have grasped the situation at all; you fail to see that it is better for one man to die for the people, than for the whole nation to be destroyed.' He did not speak in his own person, it was as high priest that he made this prophecy that Jesus was to die for the nation – and not for the nation only, but to gather together in unity the scattered children of God. From that day they were determined to kill him. So Jesus no longer went about openly among the Jews, but left the district for a town called Ephraim, in the country bordering on the desert, and stayed there with his disciples.

The Jewish Passover drew near, and many of the country people who had gone up to Jerusalem to purify themselves looked out for Jesus, saying to one another as they stood about in the Temple, 'What do you think? Will he come to the festival or not?'

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

Communion Antiphon

Christ was handed over, to gather into one the scattered children of God.