



Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 17, 2024

THE NEW COVENANT

Today's first reading is an enormously important passage, not only in the history of the Jewish people, but also for us as disciples of Jesus, who see in it a foreshadowing of the Christian dispensation. The prophet announces that God has chosen to forgive the people, and that as a sign of divine forgiveness a new covenant will be established. Contrasting the new covenant with the one made with Moses on Mount Sinai, Jeremiah says that the new covenant will be written on the people's hearts rather than on tablets of stone. No longer will the community's tradition be the sole bearer of the covenant; henceforth, God will speak directly and personally to each individual, forgiving sin and calling for a return to God in faithfulness. No longer will mere outward compliance with the dictates of the Law suffice; henceforth, God asks for an obedience that springs from the depths of one's heart.

Precisely that kind of obedience is highlighted in today's second reading, where the author of the Letter to the Hebrews describes Jesus as the mediator of the new covenant whose obedience has made him the source of salvation for all who, in turn, obey him.

FEAST OF FAITH

The First Reading

Each Sunday, we listen to three scripture readings. The first reading usually comes from the Old Testament. "The New Testament lies hidden in the Old; the Old Testament comes fully to light in the New," we read in the *Introduction to the Lectionary*. "Christ himself is the center and fullness of the whole of Scripture" (5). On Sundays, these readings usually have a close connection to the Gospel. In this season of Lent, for example, the Exodus account of the thirst of the Israelites in the desert is paired with the Samaritan woman's encounter with Jesus at the well. Ezekiel's vision of the Lord raising people from their graves is paired with the narrative of Christ raising Lazarus from the dead.

The readings are taken from many sources—historical books like Judges, Kings, and the Acts of the Apostles, prophets like Isaiah and Ezekiel, wisdom literature like Proverbs or Ecclesiastes. But no matter its genre, the first reading always ends with the same acclamation: "The word of the Lord." The scriptures are written by human authors who wrote in widely different cultural and historical contexts, but these human authors are also divine instruments through whom God speaks to us. And so we say, "Thanks be to God."

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — I will make a new covenant; I will write my law upon their hearts (Jeremiah 31:31-34) *or* *Ezekiel 37:12-14*.

Psalm — Create a clean heart in me, O God (Psalm 51) *or* *Psalms 130*.

Second Reading — Christ learned obedience and became the source of eternal salvation (Hebrews 5:7-9) *or* *Romans 8:8-11*.

Gospel — If a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it produces much fruit (John 12:20-33) *or* *John 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]*.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62];
Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:1-11
Tuesday: 2 Sam 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27
& 29; Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Jn 9:1-41

**Penance service after mass on
Wednesday March 20th at 5:30 pm**

Need volunteers for church clean-up
before Easter .Date is March 23rd
starting at 9am. Questions see
Jim Molitor

Candy needed for the Easter Egg Hunt.
Eggs will be at the front of the
church . Please fill the eggs and return to
the church

**April 7th we will have a covered dish
meal after Mass to celebrate Father
Anthony's birthday.**

MARCH 3RD

LECTOR MARK
SERVERS Johthan & Marina
COUNTER TOM & BEVERLY

MARCH 10 TH

LECTOR PEGGY
SERVER CARLOS & MAX
COUNTER MARY & ANN F

MARCH 17 TH

LECTOR BEVERLY
SERVERS JESUS
COUNTER TOM & BEVERLY

MARCH 24 PALM SUNDAY

LECTOR PEGGY
SERVER CARLOS & MAX
COUNTER MARY & ANN

MARCH 29TH GOOD FRIDAY

LECTOR MARK
SERVER JESUS
COUNTER TOM & BEVERLY

MARCH 31ST EASTER SUNDAY

LECTOR JANET & MARINA
SERVER CARLOS & MAX
COUNTER MARY & ANN F

SUNDAY COLLECTION

2-10-2024

\$790.00

Catholic Relief

\$65.00

Flowers

\$55.00

St. Regina's Church Staff

Pastor: Fr. ANTHONY ONYEKWE

Secretary: Patricia Humble

Dir: Christina Hammond

Facilities Manager: Jim Molitor

Web Page: saintreginacatholicchurch.org

Remember In Prayer

Fr Robert Ponticello , Martha Jo ,
Kaylee Bowling , Michaelle Box ,
James Ferebee,, Pam Thing ,
Leo Cortez, Abel Cortez ,

Danny Pratt , Diana Schachle,
Patricia Stanford, Brian Jones
Timothy Zaunbrecher,