

# The Living Word

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year B

21 March 2021

## First Reading Jer 31:31-34

*The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.*

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive - it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest - it is the Lord who speaks - since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 50:3-4. 12-15. R. v.12**

**(R.) Create a clean heart in me, O God.**

1. Have mercy on my, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt.  
and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)
2. A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)
3. Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,  
that I may teach transgressors your ways  
and sinners may return to you. (R.)

## Second Reading Heb 5:7-9

*He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.*

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

## Gospel Acclamation Jn 12:26

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

**If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be.**

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

## Gospel Jn 12:20-33

*If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.*

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus.

Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.



## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

I can observe a baby, but the parents 'see' their baby very differently. They gaze with total fascination, trying to perceive what this little bundle of flesh is really all about, trying to get an insight into its personality, visualising a possible future, hoping for a response.

This Gospel passage begins with a request from some Greeks 'to see Jesus', surely in all the ways parents see their baby. They were trying to perceive what this Jesus was really all about, trying to get an insight into his personality, imagining a possible future, hoping for a response.

And there was a response full of allusions to the future.

Jesus was as a grain of wheat. He died and was buried in the earth and that death was fruitful for the whole of humankind. He foresaw being nailed to the cross which would be dropped upright into a hole in the ground.

Our Lord says of that scene: 'When I am lifted up I will draw all people to myself.' How were people drawn to this scene?

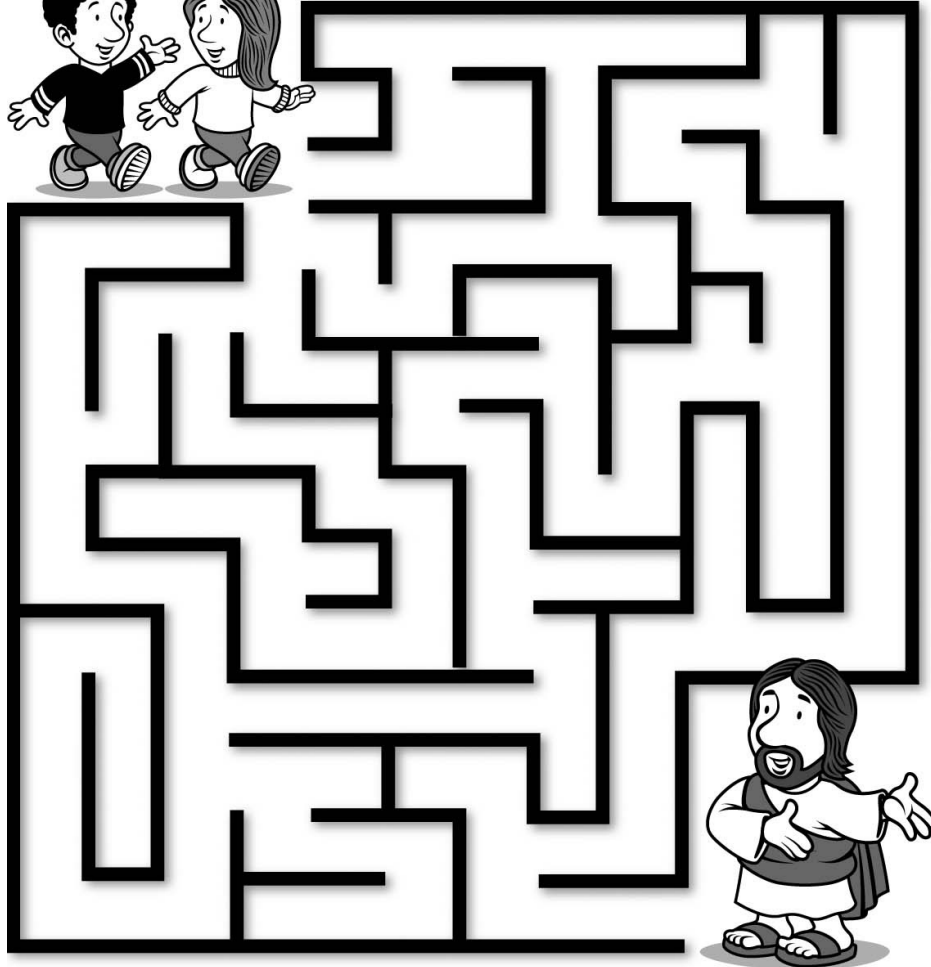
People saw the length to which Jesus was prepared to go in order to persevere in his mission to live out the message that his Heavenly Father was full of mercy and wanted all people to share in Divine Life. This led to his being lifted up on the cross, being buried in the ground like a grain of wheat, only to rise to new life.

We could take a moment to pray that we will shortly see all this with the eyes of faith as we participate in the rituals of Good Friday and Easter.

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from *The Psalms, A New Translation*, © 1963 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the *Jerusalem Bible*, published and copyrighted 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.  
© 2017 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd  
All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.



These children want to follow Jesus. Help them find their way to him through the maze



The Archangel Gabriel, is one of God's special messengers. He appeared to the prophet Daniel and helped him to understand the visions in his dreams, and was sent to tell Zechariah of the birth of his son, John the Baptist. He left Zechariah without the ability to speak for his disbelief of the message. Gabriel is best known as the angel who sent Mary tidings of the future birth of Jesus - the Annunciation of the Lord. His feast was traditionally associated with the Annunciation, but his feast day is now shared with the other archangels, Michael and Raphael, on the 29th of September. He is the patron saint of many communications industries and workers such as post, telephone, radio and television.

# Wordsearch

Try to find these words:



- certain
- disciples
- fall
- Father
- grain
- ground
- lose
- love
- more
- one
- servant
- wheat

F	C	D	E	I	D	I	L	M	L	Y	E	H	K	Z	Q
G	J	N	D	R	W	W	Y	A	P	I	M	U	E	B	K
C	P	U	V	A	O	U	W	M	I	I	V	J	P	A	S
B	I	O	U	K	W	M	V	K	U	I	D	Y	E	R	A
B	H	R	O	S	I	R	G	I	Y	M	F	G	E	S	M
V	I	G	W	E	E	C	Y	Q	P	F	O	I	I	O	W
F	L	K	R	L	S	M	V	K	W	A	T	A	E	H	W
W	K	G	E	P	S	E	V	O	L	T	O	O	N	E	L
N	G	S	Z	I	R	N	Y	J	V	H	J	I	O	O	F
J	O	A	J	C	V	E	P	X	H	E	A	T	S	Y	U
L	F	G	Y	S	Y	H	M	B	J	R	N	A	C	I	G
X	Q	A	X	I	O	M	R	F	G	A	C	L	Q	P	L
K	L	Z	L	D	V	E	U	V	V	C	V	Q	D	Z	Q
I	L	K	J	L	W	P	Z	R	V	O	G	E	L	L	P
B	D	R	X	L	D	M	E	A	K	L	U	W	H	O	U
J	A	J	H	J	O	S	V	R	J	H	K	M	L	N	N
O	Y	C	E	R	T	A	I	N	L	G	Q	C	F	W	G