

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Fifth Sunday in Lent - 8am 6th April 2025

The first reading is from Isaiah chapter 43 starting at verse 16

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord , who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸ Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰ The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹ the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

Isaiah 43.16-21

Hear the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Today we will read the Psalm 126 all together:

**1 When the Lord turned again the fortunes of Zion:
then were we like those restored to life.**

**2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter:
and our tongue with singing.**

**3 Then said they among the heathen:
'The Lord has done great things for them.'**

**4 Truly the Lord has done great things for us:
and therefore we rejoiced.**

**5 Turn again our fortunes, O Lord:
as the streams return to the dry south.**

**6 Those who sow in tears:
shall reap with songs of joy.**

**7 They that go out weeping, bearing the seed:
shall come again in gladness,
bringing their sheaves with them.**

The second reading is from Philippians chapter 3 starting at verse 3

³ For it is we who are the circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh— ⁴ even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3.3-14

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John chapter 12
starting at verse 1

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

John 12.1-8

For the Gospel of the Lord,
praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.