

## **FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YR C)**

### **FIRST READING**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (43:16-21)

Thus says the Lord,  
who made a way through the sea,  
a path in the great waters;  
who put chariots and horse in the field  
and a powerful army,  
which lay there never to rise again,  
snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past,  
no need to think about what was done before.  
See, I am doing a new deed,  
even now it comes to light; can you not see it?  
Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness,  
paths in the wilds.

The wild beasts will honour me,  
jackals and ostriches,  
because I am putting water in the wilderness  
(rivers in the wild)  
to give my chosen people drink.  
The people I have formed for myself  
will sing my praises.

**The word of the Lord.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 125. R. v.3)**

**R. What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad.**

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,  
it seemed like a dream.  
Then was our mouths filled with laughter,  
on our lips there were songs. **R.**

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels  
the Lord worked for them!'  
What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad. **R.**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage  
as streams in dry land.  
Those who are sowing in tears  
will sing when they reap. **R.**

They go out, they go out, full of tears,  
carrying seed for the sowing:  
they come back, they come back, full of song,  
carrying their sheaves. **R.**

### **SECOND READING**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Philippians (3:8-14)

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the  
supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my  
Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of  
everything, and I look on everything as so much  
rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a  
place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection  
by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from  
the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes  
through faith in Christ, and is from God and based  
on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power  
of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by  
reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the  
way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection  
of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I  
have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to  
capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured  
me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from  
thinking that I have already won. All I can say is  
that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is  
still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize  
to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ  
Jesus.

**The word of the Lord.**

### **Gospel Acclamation (Cr. Am 5:14)**

**R. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!**  
Seek good and not evil so that you may live,  
and that the Lord God of hosts may really be with  
you.

**R. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!**

**Or: (J1 2:12-13)**

**R. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!**  
Now, now – it is the Lord who speaks –  
come back to me with all your heart,  
for I am all tenderness and compassion.  
**R. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!**

## **GOSPEL**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
(8:1-11)

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**