

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Prayer to Deepen Our Love for God

Compassionate Father,
even without our asking,
you have forgiven the sins of your children.
Reaching out to make a covenant with the
houses of Israel and Judah,
you wrote your law of love upon
their hearts.

Guide the members of your Church
to seek to discover your imprint
on our hearts,
and deepen our desire to love you from the
depths of our being,
acknowledging that you are our God
and we are your people.

During these last weeks of Lent,
help us to seek your will and serve and
follow you,
for you offer the way to eternal life.
We ask this through your Son, our Lord
Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, March 22, 2015

Written on Our hearts



Today's Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 (12a); Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33. By the Fifth Sunday of Lent, we are longing for the alleluias of Easter. We continue on with our Lenten practices, though, knowing that the disciplines help to root our lives in Christ.

We receive a message of hope in today's First Reading when we hear the Lord tell Jeremiah that he will write his law in the hearts of his people. "I will be their God, and they shall be my people," he says. In this phrase we see an intimate union born from the love of God. It is a love that Psalm 51 attests is filled with compassion and goodness.

Jesus' words in the Gospel point ahead to the Cross. We hear that Jesus is troubled and that he will be lifted up.

Though anguish fills his words, hope also is within them. Not only will God be glorified when the hour has come, but Jesus "will draw all people to myself." Just as the reading from Jeremiah speaks of union with God so does the Gospel. We find in this reading from John that the Father will honor those who serve and follow Jesus.

As Easter nears, we might consider whether we strive to live in accord with the Jesus portrayed in the Letter to the Hebrews. Jesus, St. Paul writes, prayed with reverence, learned obedience through suffering, and was made perfect. Do we seek to be made perfect? As the Second Vatican Council document *Lumen Gentium* notes, all are "called to holiness" (39).