

**February 18, 2021**

**Thursday after Ash Wednesday - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Deuteronomy 7:6-11 (NRSV)

For you are a people holy to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on earth to be his people, his treasured possession. {7} It was not because you were more numerous than any other people that the LORD set his heart on you and chose you--for you were the fewest of all peoples. {8} It was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath that he swore to your ancestors, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. {9} Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who maintains covenant loyalty with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, {10} and who repays in their own person those who reject him. He does not delay but repays in their own person those who reject him. {11} Therefore, observe diligently the commandment--the statutes, and the ordinances--that I am commanding you today.

**EPISTLE** Titus 1:1-16 (NRSV)

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that is in accordance with godliness, {2} in the hope of eternal life that God, who never lies, promised before the ages began-- {3} in due time he revealed his word through the proclamation with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior, {4} To Titus, my loyal child in the faith we share: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. {5} I left you behind in Crete for this reason, so that you should put in order what remained to be done, and should appoint elders in every town, as I directed you: {6} someone who is blameless, married only once, whose children are believers, not accused of debauchery and not rebellious. {7} For a bishop, as God's steward, must be blameless; he must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or addicted to wine or violent or greedy for gain; {8} but he must be hospitable, a lover of goodness, prudent, upright, devout, and self-controlled. {9} He must have a firm grasp of the word that is trustworthy in accordance with the teaching, so that he may be able both to preach with sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict it. {10} There are also many rebellious people, idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision; {11} they must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for sordid gain what it is not right to teach. {12} It was one of them, their very own prophet, who said, "Cretans are always liars, vicious brutes, lazy gluttons." {13} That testimony is true. For this reason rebuke them sharply, so that they may become sound in the faith, {14} not paying attention to Jewish myths or to commandments of those who reject the truth. {15} To the pure all things are pure, but to the corrupt and unbelieving nothing is pure. Their very minds and consciences are corrupted. {16} They profess to know God, but they deny him by their actions. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

**GOSPEL** John 1:29-34 (NRSV)

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! {30} This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' {31} I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." {32} And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. {33} I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' {34} And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

**February 19, 2021**

**Friday after Ash Wednesday - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Deuteronomy 7:12-16 (NRSV)

If you heed these ordinances, by diligently observing them, the LORD your God will maintain with you the covenant loyalty that he swore to your ancestors; {13} he will love you, bless you, and multiply you; he will bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, your grain and your wine and your oil, the increase of your cattle and the issue of your flock, in the land that he swore to your ancestors to give you. {14} You shall be the most blessed of peoples, with neither sterility nor barrenness among you or your livestock. {15} The LORD will turn away from you every illness; all the dread diseases of Egypt that you experienced, he will not inflict on you, but he will lay them on all who hate you. {16} You shall devour all the peoples that the LORD your God is giving over to you, showing them no pity; you shall not serve their gods, for that would be a snare to you.

**EPISTLE** Titus 2:1-15 (NRSV)

But as for you, teach what is consistent with sound doctrine. {2} Tell the older men to be temperate, serious, prudent, and sound in faith, in love, and in endurance. {3} Likewise, tell the older women to be reverent in behavior, not to be slanderers or slaves to drink; they are to teach what is good, {4} so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, {5} to be self-controlled, chaste, good managers of the household, kind, being submissive to their husbands, so that the word of God may not be discredited. {6} Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. {7} Show yourself in all respects a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, gravity, {8} and sound speech that cannot be censured; then any opponent will be put to shame, having nothing evil to say of us. {9} Tell slaves to be submissive to their masters and to give satisfaction in every respect; they are not to talk back, {10} not to pilfer, but to show complete and perfect fidelity, so that in everything they may be an ornament to the doctrine of God our Savior. {11} For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, {12} training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, {13} while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. {14} He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds. {15} Declare these things; exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one look down on you.

**GOSPEL** John 1:35-42 (NRSV)

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, {36} and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" {37} The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. {38} When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" {39} He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. {40} One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. {41} He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). {42} He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

**February 20, 2021**

**Saturday after Ash Wednesday - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Deuteronomy 7:17-26 (NRSV)

If you say to yourself, "These nations are more numerous than I; how can I dispossess them?" {18} do not be afraid of them. Just remember what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt, {19} the great trials that your eyes saw, the signs and wonders, the mighty hand and the outstretched arm by which the LORD your God brought you out. The LORD your God will do the same to all the peoples of whom you are afraid. {20} Moreover, the LORD your God will send the pestilence against them, until even the survivors and the fugitives are destroyed. {21} Have no dread of them, for the LORD your God, who is present with you, is a great and awesome God. {22} The LORD your God will clear away these nations before you little by little; you will not be able to make a quick end of them, otherwise the wild animals would become too numerous for you. {23} But the LORD your God will give them over to you, and throw them into great panic, until they are destroyed. {24} He will hand their kings over to you and you shall blot out their name from under heaven; no one will be able to stand against you, until you have destroyed them. {25} The images of their gods you shall burn with fire. Do not covet the silver or the gold that is on them and take it for yourself, because you could be ensnared by it; for it is abhorrent to the LORD your God. {26} Do not bring an abhorrent thing into your house, or you will be set apart for destruction like it. You must utterly detest and abhor it, for it is set apart for destruction.

**EPISTLE** Titus 3:1-15 (NRSV)

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, {2} to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show every courtesy to everyone. {3} For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, despicable, hating one another. {4} But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, {5} he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. {6} This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, {7} so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. {8} The saying is sure. I desire that you insist on these things, so that those who have come to believe in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works; these things are excellent and profitable to everyone. {9} But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. {10} After a first and second admonition, have nothing more to do with anyone who causes divisions, {11} since you know that such a person is perverted and sinful, being self-condemned. {12} When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. {13} Make every effort to send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way, and see that they lack nothing. {14} And let people learn to devote themselves to good works in order to meet urgent needs, so that they may not be unproductive. {15} All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with all of you.

**GOSPEL** John 1:43-51 (NRSV)

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." {44} Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. {45} Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." {46} Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." {47} When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" {48} Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." {49} Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" {50} Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." {51} And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

**February 22, 2021**

**Monday - Week 1 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Deuteronomy 8:11-20 (NRSV)

Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. {12} When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, {13} and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, {14} then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, {15} who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, {16} and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. {17} Do not say to yourself, "My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth." {18} But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today. {19} If you do forget the LORD your God and follow other gods to serve and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish. {20} Like the nations that the LORD is destroying before you, so shall you perish, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.

**EPISTLE** Hebrews 2:11-18 (NRSV)

For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, {12} saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." {13} And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me." {14} Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, {15} and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. {16} For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. {17} Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. {18} Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

**GOSPEL** John 2:1-12 (NRSV)

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. {2} Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. {3} When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." {4} And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." {5} His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." {6} Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. {7} Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. {8} He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. {9} When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom {10} and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." {11} Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. {12} After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples; and they remained there a few days.

**February 23, 2021**

**Tuesday - Week 1 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** - Deuteronomy 9:4-12 (NRSV)

When the LORD your God thrusts them out before you, do not say to yourself, "It is because of my righteousness that the LORD has brought me in to occupy this land"; it is rather because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is dispossessing them before you. {5} It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you are going in to occupy their land; but because of the wickedness of these nations the LORD your God is dispossessing them before you, in order to fulfill the promise that the LORD made on oath to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. {6} Know, then, that the LORD your God is not giving you this good land to occupy because of your righteousness; for you are a stubborn people. {7} Remember and do not forget how you provoked the LORD your God to wrath in the wilderness; you have been rebellious against the LORD from the day you came out of the land of Egypt until you came to this place. {8} Even at Horeb you provoked the LORD to wrath, and the LORD was so angry with you that he was ready to destroy you. {9} When I went up the mountain to receive the stone tablets, the tablets of the covenant that the LORD made with you, I remained on the mountain forty days and forty nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water. {10} And the LORD gave me the two stone tablets written with the finger of God; on them were all the words that the LORD had spoken to you at the mountain out of the fire on the day of the assembly. {11} At the end of forty days and forty nights the LORD gave me the two stone tablets, the tablets of the covenant. {12} Then the LORD said to me, "Get up, go down quickly from here, for your people whom you have brought from Egypt have acted corruptly. They have been quick to turn from the way that I commanded them; they have cast an image for themselves."

**EPISTLE** Hebrews 3:1-11 (NRSV)

Therefore, brothers and sisters, holy partners in a heavenly calling, consider that Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, {2} was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses also "was faithful in all God's house." {3} Yet Jesus is worthy of more glory than Moses, just as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. {4} (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) {5} Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that would be spoken later. {6} Christ, however, was faithful over God's house as a son, and we are his house if we hold firm the confidence and the pride that belong to hope. {7} Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice, {8} do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, as on the day of testing in the wilderness, {9} where your ancestors put me to the test, though they had seen my works {10} for forty years. Therefore I was angry with that generation, and I said, 'They always go astray in their hearts, and they have not known my ways.' {11} As in my anger I swore, 'They will not enter my rest.'"

**GOSPEL** John 2:13-22 (NRSV)

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. {14} In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. {15} Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. {16} He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" {17} His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." {18} The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" {19} Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." {20} The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" {21} But he was speaking of the temple of his body. {22} After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

**February 24, 2021**  
**Wednesday - Week 1 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Deuteronomy 9:13-21 (NRSV)

Furthermore the LORD said to me, "I have seen that this people is indeed a stubborn people. {14} Let me alone that I may destroy them and blot out their name from under heaven; and I will make of you a nation mightier and more numerous than they." {15} So I turned and went down from the mountain, while the mountain was ablaze; the two tablets of the covenant were in my two hands. {16} Then I saw that you had indeed sinned against the LORD your God, by casting for yourselves an image of a calf; you had been quick to turn from the way that the LORD had commanded you. {17} So I took hold of the two tablets and flung them from my two hands, smashing them before your eyes. {18} Then I lay prostrate before the LORD as before, forty days and forty nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water, because of all the sin you had committed, provoking the LORD by doing what was evil in his sight. {19} For I was afraid that the anger that the LORD bore against you was so fierce that he would destroy you. But the LORD listened to me that time also. {20} The LORD was so angry with Aaron that he was ready to destroy him, but I interceded also on behalf of Aaron at that same time. {21} Then I took the sinful thing you had made, the calf, and burned it with fire and crushed it, grinding it thoroughly, until it was reduced to dust; and I threw the dust of it into the stream that runs down the mountain.

**EPISTLE** Hebrews 3:12-19 (NRSV)

Take care, brothers and sisters, that none of you may have an evil, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. {13} But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," so that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. {14} For we have become partners of Christ, if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end. {15} As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." {16} Now who were they who heard and yet were rebellious? Was it not all those who left Egypt under the leadership of Moses? {17} But with whom was he angry forty years? Was it not those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? {18} And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, if not to those who were disobedient? {19} So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

**GOSPEL** John 2:23-3:15 (NRSV)

When he was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing. {24} But Jesus on his part would not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people {25} and needed no one to testify about anyone; for he himself knew what was in everyone. {3:1} Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. {2} He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." {3} Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." {4} Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" {5} Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. {6} What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. {7} Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' {8} The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." {9} Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" {10} Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? {11} "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. {12} If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? {13} No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. {14} And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, {15} that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

**February 25, 2021**  
**Thursday - Week 1 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Deuteronomy 9:23-10:5 (NRSV)

And when the LORD sent you from Kadesh-barnea, saying, "Go up and occupy the land that I have given you," you rebelled against the command of the LORD your God, neither trusting him nor obeying him. {24} You have been rebellious against the LORD as long as he has known you. {25} Throughout the forty days and forty nights that I lay prostrate before the LORD when the LORD intended to destroy you, {26} I prayed to the LORD and said, "Lord GOD, do not destroy the people who are your very own possession, whom you redeemed in your greatness, whom you brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand. {27} Remember your servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; pay no attention to the stubbornness of this people, their wickedness and their sin, {28} otherwise the land from which you have brought us might say, 'Because the LORD was not able to bring them into the land that he promised them, and because he hated them, he has brought them out to let them die in the wilderness.' {29} For they are the people of your very own possession, whom you brought out by your great power and by your outstretched arm." {10:1} At that time the LORD said to me, "Carve out two tablets of stone like the former ones, and come up to me on the mountain, and make an ark of wood. {2} I will write on the tablets the words that were on the former tablets, which you smashed, and you shall put them in the ark." {3} So I made an ark of acacia wood, cut two tablets of stone like the former ones, and went up the mountain with the two tablets in my hand. {4} Then he wrote on the tablets the same words as before, the ten commandments that the LORD had spoken to you on the mountain out of the fire on the day of the assembly; and the LORD gave them to me. {5} So I turned and came down from the mountain, and put the tablets in the ark that I had made; and there they are, as the LORD commanded me.

**EPISTLE** Hebrews 4:1-10 (NRSV)

Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest is still open, let us take care that none of you should seem to have failed to reach it. {2} For indeed the good news came to us just as to them; but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. {3} For we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, "As in my anger I swore, 'They shall not enter my rest,'" though his works were finished at the foundation of the world. {4} For in one place it speaks about the seventh day as follows, "And God rested on the seventh day from all his works." {5} And again in this place it says, "They shall not enter my rest." {6} Since therefore it remains open for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, {7} again he sets a certain day--"today"--saying through David much later, in the words already quoted, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." {8} For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not speak later about another day. {9} So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God; {10} for those who enter God's rest also cease from their labors as God did from his.

**GOSPEL** John 3:16-21 (NRSV)

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. {17} "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. {18} Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. {19} And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. {20} For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. {21} But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

**February 26, 2-21**  
**Friday - Week 1 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Deuteronomy 10:12-22 (NRSV)

So now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you? Only to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, {13} and to keep the commandments of the LORD your God and his decrees that I am commanding you today, for your own well-being. {14} Although heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to the LORD your God, the earth with all that is in it, {15} yet the LORD set his heart in love on your ancestors alone and chose you, their descendants after them, out of all the peoples, as it is today. {16} Circumcise, then, the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stubborn any longer. {17} For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, {18} who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. {19} You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. {20} You shall fear the LORD your God; him alone you shall worship; to him you shall hold fast, and by his name you shall swear. {21} He is your praise; he is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen. {22} Your ancestors went down to Egypt seventy persons; and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars in heaven.

**EPISTLE** Hebrews 4:11-16 (NRSV)

Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one may fall through such disobedience as theirs. {12} Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. {13} And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. {14} Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. {15} For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. {16} Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need..

**GOSPEL** John 3:22-36 (NRSV)

After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he spent some time there with them and baptized. {23} John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim because water was abundant there; and people kept coming and were being baptized {24} --John, of course, had not yet been thrown into prison. {25} Now a discussion about purification arose between John's disciples and a Jew. {26} They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you testified, here he is baptizing, and all are going to him." {27} John answered, "No one can receive anything except what has been given from heaven. {28} You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Messiah, but I have been sent ahead of him.' {29} He who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. For this reason my joy has been fulfilled. {30} He must increase, but I must decrease." {31} The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks about earthly things. The one who comes from heaven is above all. {32} He testifies to what he has seen and heard, yet no one accepts his testimony. {33} Whoever has accepted his testimony has certified this, that God is true. {34} He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. {35} The Father loves the Son and has placed all things in his hands. {36} Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but must endure God's wrath.

**February 27, 2021**  
**Saturday - Week 1 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Deuteronomy 11:18-28 (NRSV)

You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and fix them as an emblem on your forehead. {19} Teach them to your children, talking about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. {20} Write them on the door posts of your house and on your gates, {21} so that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land that the LORD swore to your ancestors to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth. {22} If you will diligently observe this entire commandment that I am commanding you, loving the LORD your God, walking in all his ways, and holding fast to him, {23} then the LORD will drive out all these nations before you, and you will dispossess nations larger and mightier than yourselves. {24} Every place on which you set foot shall be yours; your territory shall extend from the wilderness to the Lebanon and from the River, the river Euphrates, to the Western Sea. {25} No one will be able to stand against you; the LORD your God will put the fear and dread of you on all the land on which you set foot, as he promised you. {26} See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: {27} the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today; {28} and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn from the way that I am commanding you today, to follow other gods that you have not known.

**EPISTLE** Hebrews 5:1-10 (NRSV)

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. {2} He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; {3} and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. {4} And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was. {5} So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; {6} as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." {7} In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. {8} Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; {9} and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, {10} having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

**GOSPEL** John 4:1-26 (NRSV)

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, "Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John" {2} --although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized-- {3} he left Judea and started back to Galilee. {4} But he had to go through Samaria. {5} So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. {6} Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. {7} A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." {8} (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) {9} The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) {10} Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." {11} The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? {12} Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" {13} Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, {14} but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." {15} The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." {16} Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." {17} The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; {18} for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" {19} The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. {20} Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." {21} Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. {22} You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. {23} But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. {24} God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." {25} The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." {26} Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

**March 1, 2021**

**Monday - Week 2 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Jeremiah 1:11-19 (NRSV)

The word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Jeremiah, what do you see?" And I said, "I see a branch of an almond tree." {12} Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it." {13} The word of the LORD came to me a second time, saying, "What do you see?" And I said, "I see a boiling pot, tilted away from the north." {14} Then the LORD said to me: Out of the north disaster shall break out on all the inhabitants of the land. {15} For now I am calling all the tribes of the kingdoms of the north, says the LORD; and they shall come and all of them shall set their thrones at the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem, against all its surrounding walls and against all the cities of Judah. {16} And I will utter my judgments against them, for all their wickedness in forsaking me; they have made offerings to other gods, and worshiped the works of their own hands. {17} But you, gird up your loins; stand up and tell them everything that I command you. Do not break down before them, or I will break you before them. {18} And I for my part have made you today a fortified city, an iron pillar, and a bronze wall, against the whole land--against the kings of Judah, its princes, its priests, and the people of the land. {19} They will fight against you; but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, says the LORD, to deliver you.

**EPISTLE** Romans 1:1-15 (NRSV)

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, {2} which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, {3} the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh {4} and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, {5} through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, {6} including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, {7} To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. {8} First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world. {9} For God, whom I serve with my spirit by announcing the gospel of his Son, is my witness that without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers, {10} asking that by God's will I may somehow at last succeed in coming to you. {11} For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you-- {12} or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. {13} I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as I have among the rest of the Gentiles. {14} I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish {15} --hence my eagerness to proclaim the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

**GOSPEL** John 4:27-42 (NRSV)

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" {28} Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, {29} "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" {30} They left the city and were on their way to him. {31} Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." {32} But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." {33} So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" {34} Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. {35} Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. {36} The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. {37} For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' {38} I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." {39} Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." {40} So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. {41} And many more believed because of his word. {42} They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

**March 2, 2021**

**Tuesday - Week 2 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Jeremiah 2:1-13 (NRSV)

The word of the LORD came to me, saying: {2} Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem, Thus says the LORD: I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown. {3} Israel was holy to the LORD, the first fruits of his harvest. All who ate of it were held guilty; disaster came upon them, says the LORD. {4} Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. {5} Thus says the LORD: What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthless things, and became worthless themselves? {6} They did not say, "Where is the LORD who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that no one passes through, where no one lives?" {7} I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land, and made my heritage an abomination. {8} The priests did not say, "Where is the LORD?" Those who handle the law did not know me; the rulers transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal, and went after things that do not profit. {9} Therefore once more I accuse you, says the LORD, and I accuse your children's children. {10} Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has ever been such a thing. {11} Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for something that does not profit. {12} Be appalled, O heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the LORD, {13} for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water.

**EPISTLE** Romans 1:16-25 (NRSV)

For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. {17} For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith." {18} For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of those who by their wickedness suppress the truth. {19} For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. {20} Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. So they are without excuse; {21} for though they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their senseless minds were darkened. {22} Claiming to be wise, they became fools; {23} and they exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling a mortal human being or birds or four-footed animals or reptiles. {24} Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the degrading of their bodies among themselves, {25} because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

**GOSPEL** John 4:43-54 (NRSV)

When the two days were over, he went from that place to Galilee {44} (for Jesus himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in the prophet's own country). {45} When he came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, since they had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the festival; for they too had gone to the festival. {46} Then he came again to Cana in Galilee where he had changed the water into wine. Now there was a royal official whose son lay ill in Capernaum. {47} When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and begged him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. {48} Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe." {49} The official said to him, "Sir, come down before my little boy dies." {50} Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started on his way. {51} As he was going down, his slaves met him and told him that his child was alive. {52} So he asked them the hour when he began to recover, and they said to him, "Yesterday at one in the afternoon the fever left him." {53} The father realized that this was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So he himself believed, along with his whole household. {54} Now this was the second sign that Jesus did after coming from Judea to Galilee.

**March 3 2021**  
**Wednesday - Week 2 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Jeremiah 3:6-18 (NRSV)

The LORD said to me in the days of King Josiah: Have you seen what she did, that faithless one, Israel, how she went up on every high hill and under every green tree, and played the whore there? {7} And I thought, "After she has done all this she will return to me"; but she did not return, and her false sister Judah saw it. {8} She saw that for all the adulteries of that faithless one, Israel, I had sent her away with a decree of divorce; yet her false sister Judah did not fear, but she too went and played the whore. {9} Because she took her whoredom so lightly, she polluted the land, committing adultery with stone and tree. {10} Yet for all this her false sister Judah did not return to me with her whole heart, but only in pretense, says the LORD. {11} Then the LORD said to me: Faithless Israel has shown herself less guilty than false Judah. {12} Go, and proclaim these words toward the north, and say: Return, faithless Israel, says the LORD. I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful, says the LORD; I will not be angry forever. {13} Only acknowledge your guilt, that you have rebelled against the LORD your God, and scattered your favors among strangers under every green tree, and have not obeyed my voice, says the LORD. {14} Return, O faithless children, says the LORD, for I am your master; I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion. {15} I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. {16} And when you have multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, says the LORD, they shall no longer say, "The ark of the covenant of the LORD." It shall not come to mind, or be remembered, or missed; nor shall another one be made. {17} At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of the LORD, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the LORD in Jerusalem, and they shall no longer stubbornly follow their own evil will. {18} In those days the house of Judah shall join the house of Israel, and together they shall come from the land of the north to the land that I gave your ancestors for a heritage.

**EPISTLE** Romans 1:28-2:11 (NRSV)

And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind and to things that should not be done. {29} They were filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, covetousness, malice. Full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, craftiness, they are gossips, {30} slanderers, God-haters, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, rebellious toward parents, {31} foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. {32} They know God's decree, that those who practice such things deserve to die--yet they not only do them but even applaud others who practice them. {2:1} Therefore you have no excuse, whoever you are, when you judge others; for in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same things. {2} You say, "We know that God's judgment on those who do such things is in accordance with truth." {3} Do you imagine, whoever you are, that when you judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself, you will escape the judgment of God? {4} Or do you despise the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience? Do you not realize that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? {5} But by your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. {6} For he will repay according to each one's deeds: {7} to those who by patiently doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; {8} while for those who are self-seeking and who obey not the truth but wickedness, there will be wrath and fury. {9} There will be anguish and distress for everyone who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, {10} but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. {11} For God shows no partiality.

**GOSPEL** John 5:1-18 (NRSV)

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. {2} Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. {3} In these lay many invalids--blind, lame, and paralyzed. {4} {5} One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. {6} When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" {7} The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me." {8} Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." {9} At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath. {10} So the Jews said to the man who had been cured, "It is the sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat." {11} But he answered them, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Take up your mat and walk.'" {12} They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take it up and walk?'" {13} Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there. {14} Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you have been made well! Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you." {15} The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. {16} Therefore the Jews started persecuting Jesus, because he was doing such things on the sabbath. {17} But Jesus answered them, "My Father is still working, and I also am working." {18} For this reason the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because he was not only breaking the sabbath, but was also calling God his own Father, thereby making himself equal to God.

**March 4, 2021**  
**Thursday Week 2 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Jeremiah 4:9-10, 19-28 (NRSV)

On that day, says the LORD, courage shall fail the king and the officials; the priests shall be appalled and the prophets astounded. {10} Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD, how utterly you have deceived this people and Jerusalem, saying, 'It shall be well with you,' even while the sword is at the throat!" My anguish, my anguish! I writhe in pain! Oh, the walls of my heart! My heart is beating wildly; I cannot keep silent; for I hear the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war. {20} Disaster overtakes disaster, the whole land is laid waste. Suddenly my tents are destroyed, my curtains in a moment. {21} How long must I see the standard, and hear the sound of the trumpet? {22} "For my people are foolish, they do not know me; they are stupid children, they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil, but do not know how to do good." {23} I looked on the earth, and lo, it was waste and void; and to the heavens, and they had no light. {24} I looked on the mountains, and lo, they were quaking, and all the hills moved to and fro. {25} I looked, and lo, there was no one at all, and all the birds of the air had fled. {26} I looked, and lo, the fruitful land was a desert, and all its cities were laid in ruins before the LORD, before his fierce anger. {27} For thus says the LORD: The whole land shall be a desolation; yet I will not make a full end. {28} Because of this the earth shall mourn, and the heavens above grow black; for I have spoken, I have purposed; I have not relented nor will I turn back.

**EPISTLE** Romans 2:12-24 (NRSV)

All who have sinned apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. {13} For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous in God's sight, but the doers of the law who will be justified. {14} When Gentiles, who do not possess the law, do instinctively what the law requires, these, though not having the law, are a law to themselves. {15} They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, to which their own conscience also bears witness; and their conflicting thoughts will accuse or perhaps excuse them {16} on the day when, according to my gospel, God, through Jesus Christ, will judge the secret thoughts of all. {17} But if you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast of your relation to God {18} and know his will and determine what is best because you are instructed in the law, {19} and if you are sure that you are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, {20} a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth, {21} you, then, that teach others, will you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? {22} You that forbid adultery, do you commit adultery? You that abhor idols, do you rob temples? {23} You that boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? {24} For, as it is written, "The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."

**GOSPEL** John 5:19-29 (NRSV)

Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise. {20} The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing; and he will show him greater works than these, so that you will be astonished. {21} Indeed, just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whomever he wishes. {22} The Father judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son, {23} so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. {24} Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life. {25} "Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. {26} For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; {27} and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. {28} Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice {29} and will come out--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

**March 5, 2021**

**Friday - Week 2 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Jeremiah 5:1-9 (NRSV)

Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, look around and take note! Search its squares and see if you can find one person who acts justly and seeks truth-- so that I may pardon Jerusalem. {2} Although they say, "As the LORD lives," yet they swear falsely. {3} O LORD, do your eyes not look for truth? You have struck them, but they felt no anguish; you have consumed them, but they refused to take correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; they have refused to turn back. {4} Then I said, "These are only the poor, they have no sense; for they do not know the way of the LORD, the law of their God. {5} Let me go to the rich and speak to them; surely they know the way of the LORD, the law of their God." But they all alike had broken the yoke, they had burst the bonds. {6} Therefore a lion from the forest shall kill them, a wolf from the desert shall destroy them. A leopard is watching against their cities; everyone who goes out of them shall be torn in pieces-- because their transgressions are many, their apostasies are great. {7} How can I pardon you? Your children have forsaken me, and have sworn by those who are no gods. When I fed them to the full, they committed adultery and trooped to the houses of prostitutes. {8} They were well-fed lusty stallions, each neighing for his neighbor's wife. {9} Shall I not punish them for these things? says the LORD; and shall I not bring retribution on a nation such as this?

**EPISTLE** Romans 2:25-3:18 (NRSV)

Circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law; but if you break the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. {26} So, if those who are uncircumcised keep the requirements of the law, will not their uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? {27} Then those who are physically uncircumcised but keep the law will condemn you that have the written code and circumcision but break the law. {28} For a person is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is true circumcision something external and physical. {29} Rather, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly, and real circumcision is a matter of the heart--it is spiritual and not literal. Such a person receives praise not from others but from God. {3:1} Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? {2} Much, in every way. For in the first place the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. {3} What if some were unfaithful? Will their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? {4} By no means! Although everyone is a liar, let God be proved true, as it is written, "So that you may be justified in your words, and prevail in your judging." {5} But if our injustice serves to confirm the justice of God, what should we say? That God is unjust to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) {6} By no means! For then how could God judge the world? {7} But if through my falsehood God's truthfulness abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? {8} And why not say (as some people slander us by saying that we say), "Let us do evil so that good may come"? Their condemnation is deserved! {9} What then? Are we any better off? No, not at all; for we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under the power of sin, {10} as it is written: "There is no one who is righteous, not even one; {11} there is no one who has understanding, there is no one who seeks God. {12} All have turned aside, together they have become worthless; there is no one who shows kindness, there is not even one." {13} "Their throats are opened graves; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of vipers is under their lips." {14} "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." {15} "Their feet are swift to shed blood; {16} ruin and misery are in their paths, {17} and the way of peace they have not known." {18} "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

**GOSPEL** John 5:30-47 (NRSV)

"I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge; and my judgment is just, because I seek to do not my own will but the will of him who sent me. {31} "If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. {32} There is another who testifies on my behalf, and I know that his testimony to me is true. {33} You sent messengers to John, and he testified to the truth. {34} Not that I accept such human testimony, but I say these things so that you may be saved. {35} He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. {36} But I have a testimony greater than John's. The works that the Father has given me to complete, the very works that I am doing, testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me. {37} And the Father who sent me has himself testified on my behalf. You have never heard his voice or seen his form, {38} and you do not have his word abiding in you, because you do not believe him whom he has sent. {39} "You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. {40} Yet you refuse to come to me to have life. {41} I do not accept glory from human beings. {42} But I know that you do not have the love of God in you. {43} I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; if another comes in his own name, you will accept him. {44} How can you believe when you accept glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the one who alone is God? {45} Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; your accuser is Moses, on whom you have set your hope. {46} If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. {47} But if you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?"

**March 6, 2021**  
**Saturday - Week 2 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Jeremiah 5:20-31 (NRSV)

Declare this in the house of Jacob, proclaim it in Judah: {21} Hear this, O foolish and senseless people, who have eyes, but do not see, who have ears, but do not hear. {22} Do you not fear me? says the LORD; Do you not tremble before me? I placed the sand as a boundary for the sea, a perpetual barrier that it cannot pass; though the waves toss, they cannot prevail, though they roar, they cannot pass over it. {23} But this people has a stubborn and rebellious heart; they have turned aside and gone away. {24} They do not say in their hearts, "Let us fear the LORD our God, who gives the rain in its season, the autumn rain and the spring rain, and keeps for us the weeks appointed for the harvest." {25} Your iniquities have turned these away, and your sins have deprived you of good. {26} For scoundrels are found among my people; they take over the goods of others. Like fowlers they set a trap; they catch human beings. {27} Like a cage full of birds, their houses are full of treachery; therefore they have become great and rich, {28} they have grown fat and sleek. They know no limits in deeds of wickedness; they do not judge with justice the cause of the orphan, to make it prosper, and they do not defend the rights of the needy. {29} Shall I not punish them for these things? says the LORD, and shall I not bring retribution on a nation such as this? {30} An appalling and horrible thing has happened in the land: {31} the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule as the prophets direct; my people love to have it so, but what will you do when the end comes?

**EPISTLE** Romans 3:19-31 (NRSV)

Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. {20} For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. {21} But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, {22} the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, {23} since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; {24} they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, {25} whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; {26} it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. {27} Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. {28} For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law. {29} Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, {30} since God is one; and he will justify the circumcised on the ground of faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith. {31} Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

**GOSPEL** John 7:1-13 (NRSV)

After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He did not wish to go about in Judea because the Jews were looking for an opportunity to kill him. {2} Now the Jewish festival of Booths was near. {3} So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea so that your disciples also may see the works you are doing; {4} for no one who wants to be widely known acts in secret. If you do these things, show yourself to the world." {5} (For not even his brothers believed in him.) {6} Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. {7} The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify against it that its works are evil. {8} Go to the festival yourselves. I am not going to this festival, for my time has not yet fully come." {9} After saying this, he remained in Galilee. {10} But after his brothers had gone to the festival, then he also went, not publicly but as it were in secret. {11} The Jews were looking for him at the festival and saying, "Where is he?" {12} And there was considerable complaining about him among the crowds. While some were saying, "He is a good man," others were saying, "No, he is deceiving the crowd." {13} Yet no one would speak openly about him for fear of the Jews.

**March 8, 2021**

**Monday - Week 3 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Jeremiah 7:1-15 (NRSV)

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: {2} Stand in the gate of the Lord's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah, you that enter these gates to worship the LORD. {3} Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your doings, and let me dwell with you in this place. {4} Do not trust in these deceptive words: "This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD." {5} For if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly act justly one with another, {6} if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt, {7} then I will dwell with you in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your ancestors forever and ever. {8} Here you are, trusting in deceptive words to no avail. {9} Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, {10} and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, "We are safe!"--only to go on doing all these abominations? {11} Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your sight? You know, I too am watching, says the LORD. {12} Go now to my place that was in Shiloh, where I made my name dwell at first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel. {13} And now, because you have done all these things, says the LORD, and when I spoke to you persistently, you did not listen, and when I called you, you did not answer, {14} therefore I will do to the house that is called by my name, in which you trust, and to the place that I gave to you and to your ancestors, just what I did to Shiloh. {15} And I will cast you out of my sight, just as I cast out all your kinsfolk, all the offspring of Ephraim.

**EPISTLE** Romans 4:1-12 (NRSV)

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? {2} For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. {3} For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." {4} Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. {5} But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. {6} So also David speaks of the blessedness of those to whom God reckons righteousness apart from works: {7} "Blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; {8} blessed is the one against whom the Lord will not reckon sin." {9} Is this blessedness, then, pronounced only on the circumcised, or also on the uncircumcised? We say, "Faith was reckoned to Abraham as righteousness." {10} How then was it reckoned to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. {11} He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the ancestor of all who believe without being circumcised and who thus have righteousness reckoned to them, {12} and likewise the ancestor of the circumcised who are not only circumcised but who also follow the example of the faith that our ancestor Abraham had before he was circumcised.

**GOSPEL** John 7:14-36 (NRSV)

About the middle of the festival Jesus went up into the temple and began to teach. {15} The Jews were astonished at it, saying, "How does this man have such learning, when he has never been taught?" {16} Then Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine but his who sent me. {17} Anyone who resolves to do the will of God will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own. {18} Those who speak on their own seek their own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and there is nothing false in him. {19} "Did not Moses give you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why are you looking for an opportunity to kill me?" {20} The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who is trying to kill you?" {21} Jesus answered them, "I performed one work, and all of you are astonished. {22} Moses gave you circumcision (it is, of course, not from Moses, but from the patriarchs), and you circumcise a man on the sabbath. {23} If a man receives circumcision on the sabbath in order that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because I healed a man's whole body on the sabbath? {24} Do not judge by appearances,

but judge with right judgment." {25} Now some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, "Is not this the man whom they are trying to kill? {26} And here he is, speaking openly, but they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Messiah? {27} Yet we know where this man is from; but when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from." {28} Then Jesus cried out as he was teaching in the temple, "You know me, and you know where I am from. I have not come on my own. But the one who sent me is true, and you do not know him. {29} I know him, because I am from him, and he sent me." {30} Then they tried to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him, because his hour had not yet come. {31} Yet many in the crowd believed in him and were saying, "When the Messiah comes, will he do more signs than this man has done?" {32} The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering such things about him, and the chief priests and Pharisees sent temple police to arrest him. {33} Jesus then said, "I will be with you a little while longer, and then I am going to him who sent me. {34} You will search for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come." {35} The Jews said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we will not find him? Does he intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? {36} What does he mean by saying, 'You will search for me and you will not find me' and 'Where I am, you cannot come'?"

**March 9, 2021**

**Tuesday - Week 3 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Jeremiah 7:21-34 (NRSV)

Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices, and eat the flesh. {22} For in the day that I brought your ancestors out of the land of Egypt, I did not speak to them or command them concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices. {23} But this command I gave them, "Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people; and walk only in the way that I command you, so that it may be well with you." {24} Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but, in the stubbornness of their evil will, they walked in their own counsels, and looked backward rather than forward. {25} From the day that your ancestors came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have persistently sent all my servants the prophets to them, day after day; {26} yet they did not listen to me, or pay attention, but they stiffened their necks. They did worse than their ancestors did. {27} So you shall speak all these words to them, but they will not listen to you. You shall call to them, but they will not answer you. {28} You shall say to them: This is the nation that did not obey the voice of the LORD their God, and did not accept discipline; truth has perished; it is cut off from their lips. {29} Cut off your hair and throw it away; raise a lamentation on the bare heights, for the LORD has rejected and forsaken the generation that provoked his wrath. {30} For the people of Judah have done evil in my sight, says the LORD; they have set their abominations in the house that is called by my name, defiling it. {31} And they go on building the high place of Topheth, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire--which I did not command, nor did it come into my mind. {32} Therefore, the days are surely coming, says the LORD, when it will no more be called Topheth, or the valley of the son of Hinnom, but the valley of Slaughter: for they will bury in Topheth until there is no more room. {33} The corpses of this people will be food for the birds of the air, and for the animals of the earth; and no one will frighten them away. {34} And I will bring to an end the sound of mirth and gladness, the voice of the bride and bridegroom in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; for the land shall become a waste.

**EPISTLE** Romans 4:13-25 (NRSV)

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. {14} If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. {15} For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. {16} For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, {17} as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")--in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. {18} Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." {19} He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. {20} No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, {21} being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. {22} Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." {23} Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, {24} but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, {25} who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

**GOSPEL** John 7:37-52 (NRSV)

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, {38} and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" {39} Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified. {40} When they heard these words, some in the crowd said, "This is really the prophet." {41} Others said, "This is the Messiah." But some asked, "Surely the Messiah does not come from Galilee, does he? {42} Has not the scripture said that the Messiah is descended from David and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?" {43} So there was a division in the crowd because of him. {44} Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. {45} Then the temple police went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, "Why did you not arrest him?" {46} The police answered, "Never has anyone spoken like this!" {47} Then the Pharisees replied, "Surely you have not been deceived too, have you? {48} Has any one of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? {49} But this crowd, which does not know the law--they are accursed." {50} Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus before, and who was one of them, asked, {51} "Our law does not judge people without first giving them a hearing to find out what they are doing, does it?" {52} They replied, "Surely you are not also from Galilee, are you? Search and you will see that no prophet is to arise from Galilee."

**March 10, 2021**

**Wednesday - Week 3 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Jeremiah 8:18-9:6 (NRSV)

My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick. {19} Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land: "Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King not in her?" ("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?") {20} "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." {21} For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me. {22} Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored? {9:1} O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people! {2} O that I had in the desert a traveler's lodging place, that I might leave my people and go away from them! For they are all adulterers, a band of traitors. {3} They bend their tongues like bows; they have grown strong in the land for falsehood, and not for truth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they do not know me, says the LORD. {4} Beware of your neighbors, and put no trust in any of your kin; for all your kin are supplanters, and every neighbor goes around like a slanderer. {5} They all deceive their neighbors, and no one speaks the truth; they have taught their tongues to speak lies; they commit iniquity and are too weary to repent. {6} Oppression upon oppression, deceit upon deceit! They refuse to know me, says the LORD.

**EPISTLE** Romans 5:1-11 (NRSV)

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, {2} through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. {3} And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, {4} and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, {5} and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. {6} For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. {7} Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person--though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. {8} But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. {9} Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. {10} For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. {11} But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

**GOSPEL** John 8:12-20 (NRSV)

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." {13} Then the Pharisees said to him, "You are testifying on your own behalf; your testimony is not valid." {14} Jesus answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid because I know where I have come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. {15} You judge by human standards; I judge no one. {16} Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is valid; for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. {17} In your law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is valid. {18} I testify on my own behalf, and the Father who sent me testifies on my behalf." {19} Then they said to him, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." {20} He spoke these words while he was teaching in the treasury of the temple, but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

**March 11, 2021**

**Thursday - Week 3 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Jeremiah 10:11-24 (NRSV)

Thus shall you say to them: The gods who did not make the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens. {12} It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens. {13} When he utters his voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, and he makes the mist rise from the ends of the earth. He makes lightnings for the rain, and he brings out the wind from his storehouses. {14} Everyone is stupid and without knowledge; goldsmiths are all put to shame by their idols; for their images are false, and there is no breath in them. {15} They are worthless, a work of delusion; at the time of their punishment they shall perish. {16} Not like these is the LORD, the portion of Jacob, for he is the one who formed all things, and Israel is the tribe of his inheritance; the LORD of hosts is his name. {17} Gather up your bundle from the ground, O you who live under siege! {18} For thus says the LORD: I am going to sling out the inhabitants of the land at this time, and I will bring distress on them, so that they shall feel it. {19} Woe is me because of my hurt! My wound is severe. But I said, "Truly this is my punishment, and I must bear it." {20} My tent is destroyed, and all my cords are broken; my children have gone from me, and they are no more; there is no one to spread my tent again, and to set up my curtains. {21} For the shepherds are stupid, and do not inquire of the LORD; therefore they have not prospered, and all their flock is scattered. {22} Hear, a noise! Listen, it is coming-- a great commotion from the land of the north to make the cities of Judah a desolation, a lair of jackals. {23} I know, O LORD, that the way of human beings is not in their control, that mortals as they walk cannot direct their steps. {24} Correct me, O LORD, but in just measure; not in your anger, or you will bring me to nothing.

**EPISTLE** Romans 5:12-21 (NRSV)

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-- {13} sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. {14} Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. {15} But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. {16} And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. {17} If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. {18} Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. {19} For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. {20} But law came in, with the result that the trespass multiplied; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, {21} so that, just as sin exercised dominion in death, so grace might also exercise dominion through justification leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**GOSPEL** John 8:21-32 (NRSV)

Again he said to them, "I am going away, and you will search for me, but you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come." {22} Then the Jews said, "Is he going to kill himself? Is that what he means by saying, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?" {23} He said to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. {24} I told you that you would die in your sins, for you will die in your sins unless you believe that I am he." {25} They said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "Why do I speak to you at all? {26} I have much to say about you and much to condemn; but the one who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him." {27} They did not understand that he was speaking to them about the Father. {28} So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own, but I speak these things as the Father instructed me. {29} And the one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what is pleasing to him." {30} As he was saying these things, many believed in him. {31} Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; {32} and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

**March 12, 2021**

**Friday - Week 3 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Jeremiah 11:1-8, 11:14-20(NRSV)

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: {2} Hear the words of this covenant, and speak to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. {3} You shall say to them, Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Cursed be anyone who does not heed the words of this covenant, {4} which I commanded your ancestors when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, from the iron-smelter, saying, Listen to my voice, and do all that I command you. So shall you be my people, and I will be your God, {5} that I may perform the oath that I swore to your ancestors, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as at this day. Then I answered, "So be it, LORD." {6} And the LORD said to me: Proclaim all these words in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: Hear the words of this covenant and do them. {7} For I solemnly warned your ancestors when I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, warning them persistently, even to this day, saying, Obey my voice. {8} Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but everyone walked in the stubbornness of an evil will. So I brought upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do, but they did not. {14} As for you, do not pray for this people, or lift up a cry or prayer on their behalf, for I will not listen when they call to me in the time of their trouble. {15} What right has my beloved in my house, when she has done vile deeds? Can vows and sacrificial flesh avert your doom? Can you then exult? {16} The LORD once called you, "A green olive tree, fair with goodly fruit"; but with the roar of a great tempest he will set fire to it, and its branches will be consumed. {17} The LORD of hosts, who planted you, has pronounced evil against you, because of the evil that the house of Israel and the house of Judah have done, provoking me to anger by making offerings to Baal. {18} It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. {19} But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!" {20} But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

**EPISTLE** Romans 6:1-11 (NRSV)

What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? {2} By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? {3} Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? {4} Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. {5} For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. {6} We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. {7} For whoever has died is freed from sin. {8} But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. {9} We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. {10} The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. {11} So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**GOSPEL** John 8:33-47 (NRSV)

They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?" {34} Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. {35} The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. {36} So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. {37} I know that you are descendants of Abraham; yet you look for an opportunity to kill me, because there is no place in you for my word. {38} I declare what I have seen in the Father's presence; as for you, you should do what you have heard from the Father." {39} They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, {40} but now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. {41} You are indeed doing what your father does." They said to him, "We are not illegitimate children; we have one father, God himself." {42} Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now I am here. I did not come on my own, but he sent me. {43} Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot accept my word. {44} You are from your father the devil, and you choose to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. {45} But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. {46} Which of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? {47} Whoever is from God hears the words of God. The reason you do not hear them is that you are not from God."

**March 13, 2021**

**Saturday - Week 3 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Jeremiah 13:1-11 (NRSV)

Thus said the LORD to me, "Go and buy yourself a linen loincloth, and put it on your loins, but do not dip it in water." {2} So I bought a loincloth according to the word of the LORD, and put it on my loins. {3} And the word of the LORD came to me a second time, saying, {4} "Take the loincloth that you bought and are wearing, and go now to the Euphrates, and hide it there in a cleft of the rock." {5} So I went, and hid it by the Euphrates, as the LORD commanded me. {6} And after many days the LORD said to me, "Go now to the Euphrates, and take from there the loincloth that I commanded you to hide there." {7} Then I went to the Euphrates, and dug, and I took the loincloth from the place where I had hidden it. But now the loincloth was ruined; it was good for nothing. {8} Then the word of the LORD came to me: {9} Thus says the LORD: Just so I will ruin the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem. {10} This evil people, who refuse to hear my words, who stubbornly follow their own will and have gone after other gods to serve them and worship them, shall be like this loincloth, which is good for nothing. {11} For as the loincloth clings to one's loins, so I made the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah cling to me, says the LORD, in order that they might be for me a people, a name, a praise, and a glory. But they would not listen.

**EPISTLE** Romans 6:12-23 (NRSV)

Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. {13} No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. {14} For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. {15} What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! {16} Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? {17} But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, {18} and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. {19} I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. {20} When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. {21} So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. {22} But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. {23} For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**GOSPEL** John 8:47-59 (NRSV)

Whoever is from God hears the words of God. The reason you do not hear them is that you are not from God." {48} The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" {49} Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon; but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. {50} Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is one who seeks it and he is the judge. {51} Very truly, I tell you, whoever keeps my word will never see death." {52} The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon. Abraham died, and so did the prophets; yet you say, 'Whoever keeps my word will never taste death.' {53} Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets also died. Who do you claim to be?" {54} Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, he of whom you say, 'He is our God,' {55} though you do not know him. But I know him; if I would say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him and I keep his word. {56} Your ancestor Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day; he saw it and was glad." {57} Then the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" {58} Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am." {59} So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

**March 15, 2021**  
**Monday - Week 4 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Jeremiah 16:10-21 (NRSV)

And when you tell this people all these words, and they say to you, "Why has the LORD pronounced all this great evil against us? What is our iniquity? What is the sin that we have committed against the LORD our God?" {11} then you shall say to them: It is because your ancestors have forsaken me, says the LORD, and have gone after other gods and have served and worshiped them, and have forsaken me and have not kept my law; {12} and because you have behaved worse than your ancestors, for here you are, every one of you, following your stubborn evil will, refusing to listen to me. {13} Therefore I will hurl you out of this land into a land that neither you nor your ancestors have known, and there you shall serve other gods day and night, for I will show you no favor. {14} Therefore, the days are surely coming, says the LORD, when it shall no longer be said, "As the LORD lives who brought the people of Israel up out of the land of Egypt," {15} but "As the LORD lives who brought the people of Israel up out of the land of the north and out of all the lands where he had driven them." For I will bring them back to their own land that I gave to their ancestors. {16} I am now sending for many fishermen, says the LORD, and they shall catch them; and afterward I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and out of the clefts of the rocks. {17} For my eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from my presence, nor is their iniquity concealed from my sight. {18} And I will doubly repay their iniquity and their sin, because they have polluted my land with the carcasses of their detestable idols, and have filled my inheritance with their abominations. {19} O LORD, my strength and my stronghold, my refuge in the day of trouble, to you shall the nations come from the ends of the earth and say: Our ancestors have inherited nothing but lies, worthless things in which there is no profit. {20} Can mortals make for themselves gods? Such are no gods! {21} "Therefore I am surely going to teach them, this time I am going to teach them my power and my might, and they shall know that my name is the LORD."

**EPISTLE** Romans 7:1-12 (NRSV)

Do you not know, brothers and sisters--for I am speaking to those who know the law--that the law is binding on a person only during that person's lifetime? {2} Thus a married woman is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives; but if her husband dies, she is discharged from the law concerning the husband. {3} Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man, she is not an adulteress. {4} In the same way, my friends, you have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead in order that we may bear fruit for God. {5} While we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. {6} But now we are discharged from the law, dead to that which held us captive, so that we are slaves not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit. {7} What then should we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet, if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." {8} But sin, seizing an opportunity in the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. Apart from the law sin lies dead. {9} I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived {10} and I died, and the very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. {11} For sin, seizing an opportunity in the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. {12} So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and just and good.

**GOSPEL** John 6:1-15 (NRSV)

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. {2} A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. {3} Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. {4} Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. {5} When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" {6} He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. {7} Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." {8} One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, {9} "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" {10} Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. {11} Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. {12} When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." {13} So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. {14} When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world." {15} When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

**March 16, 2021**

**Tuesday - Week 4 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Jeremiah 17:19-27 (NRSV)

Thus said the LORD to me: Go and stand in the People's Gate, by which the kings of Judah enter and by which they go out, and in all the gates of Jerusalem, {20} and say to them: Hear the word of the LORD, you kings of Judah, and all Judah, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, who enter by these gates. {21} Thus says the LORD: For the sake of your lives, take care that you do not bear a burden on the sabbath day or bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem. {22} And do not carry a burden out of your houses on the sabbath or do any work, but keep the sabbath day holy, as I commanded your ancestors. {23} Yet they did not listen or incline their ear; they stiffened their necks and would not hear or receive instruction. {24} But if you listen to me, says the LORD, and bring in no burden by the gates of this city on the sabbath day, but keep the sabbath day holy and do no work on it, {25} then there shall enter by the gates of this city kings who sit on the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they and their officials, the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and this city shall be inhabited forever. {26} And people shall come from the towns of Judah and the places around Jerusalem, from the land of Benjamin, from the Shephelah, from the hill country, and from the Negeb, bringing burnt offerings and sacrifices, grain offerings and frankincense, and bringing thank offerings to the house of the LORD. {27} But if you do not listen to me, to keep the sabbath day holy, and to carry in no burden through the gates of Jerusalem on the sabbath day, then I will kindle a fire in its gates; it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem and shall not be quenched.

**EPISTLE** Romans 7:13-25 (NRSV)

Did what is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, working death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure. {14} For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am of the flesh, sold into slavery under sin. {15} I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. {16} Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. {17} But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. {18} For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. {19} For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. {20} Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. {21} So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. {22} For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, {23} but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. {24} Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? {25} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

**GOSPEL** John 6:16-27 (NRSV)

When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, {17} got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. {18} The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. {19} When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. {20} But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." {21} Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going. {22} The next day the crowd that had stayed on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there. They also saw that Jesus had not got into the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. {23} Then some boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. {24} So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. {25} When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" {26} Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. {27} Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal."

**March 17, 2021**

**Wednesday -Week 4 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Jeremiah 18:1-11 (NRSV)

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: {2} "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." {3} So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. {4} The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. {5} Then the word of the LORD came to me: {6} Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the LORD. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. {7} At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, {8} but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. {9} And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, {10} but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. {11} Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the LORD: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

**EPISTLE** Romans 8:1-11 (NRSV)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. {2} For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. {3} For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, {4} so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. {5} For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. {6} To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. {7} For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law--indeed it cannot, {8} and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. {9} But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. {10} But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. {11} If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

**GOSPEL** John 6:27-40 (NRSV)

Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." {28} Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" {29} Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." {30} So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? {31} Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" {32} Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. {33} For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." {34} They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." {35} Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. {36} But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. {37} Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; {38} for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. {39} And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. {40} This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

**March 18, 2021**

**Thursday - Week 4 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Jeremiah 22:13-23 (NRSV)

Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice; who makes his neighbors work for nothing, and does not give them their wages; {14} who says, "I will build myself a spacious house with large upper rooms," and who cuts out windows for it, paneling it with cedar, and painting it with vermilion. {15} Are you a king because you compete in cedar? Did not your father eat and drink and do justice and righteousness? Then it was well with him. {16} He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Is not this to know me? says the LORD. {17} But your eyes and heart are only on your dishonest gain, for shedding innocent blood, and for practicing oppression and violence. {18} Therefore thus says the LORD concerning King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah: They shall not lament for him, saying, "Alas, my brother!" or "Alas, sister!" They shall not lament for him, saying, "Alas, lord!" or "Alas, his majesty!" {19} With the burial of a donkey he shall be buried-- dragged off and thrown out beyond the gates of Jerusalem. {20} Go up to Lebanon, and cry out, and lift up your voice in Bashan; cry out from Abarim, for all your lovers are crushed. {21} I spoke to you in your prosperity, but you said, "I will not listen." This has been your way from your youth, for you have not obeyed my voice. {22} The wind shall shepherd all your shepherds, and your lovers shall go into captivity; then you will be ashamed and dismayed because of all your wickedness. {23} O inhabitant of Lebanon, nested among the cedars, how you will groan when pangs come upon you, pain as of a woman in labor!

**EPISTLE** Romans 8:12-27 (NRSV)

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- {13} for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. {14} For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. {15} For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" {16} it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, {17} and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ--if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. {18} I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. {19} For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; {20} for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope {21} that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. {22} We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; {23} and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. {24} For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? {25} But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. {26} Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. {27} And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

**GOSPEL** John 6:41-51 (NRSV)

Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." {42} They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" {43} Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. {44} No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. {45} It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. {46} Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. {47} Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. {48} I am the bread of life. {49} Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. {50} This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. {51} I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

**March 19, 2021**  
**Friday - Week 4 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Jeremiah 23:1-8 (NRSV)

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. {2} Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. {3} Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. {4} I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD. {5} The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. {6} In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness." {7} Therefore, the days are surely coming, says the LORD, when it shall no longer be said, "As the LORD lives who brought the people of Israel up out of the land of Egypt," {8} but "As the LORD lives who brought out and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the land of the north and out of all the lands where he had driven them." Then they shall live in their own land.

**EPISTLE** Romans 8:28-39 (NRSV)

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. {29} For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. {30} And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. {31} What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? {32} He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? {33} Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. {34} Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. {35} Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? {36} As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." {37} No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. {38} For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, {39} nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**GOSPEL** John 6:52-59 (NRSV)

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" {53} So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. {54} Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; {55} for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. {56} Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. {57} Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. {58} This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." {59} He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. Jeremiah 23:3 (NRSV) Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply.

**March 20, 2021**  
**Saturday - Week 4 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Jeremiah 23:9-15 (NRSV)

Concerning the prophets: My heart is crushed within me, all my bones shake; I have become like a drunkard, like one overcome by wine, because of the LORD and because of his holy words. {10} For the land is full of adulterers; because of the curse the land mourns, and the pastures of the wilderness are dried up. Their course has been evil, and their might is not right. {11} Both prophet and priest are ungodly; even in my house I have found their wickedness, says the LORD. {12} Therefore their way shall be to them like slippery paths in the darkness, into which they shall be driven and fall; for I will bring disaster upon them in the year of their punishment, says the LORD. {13} In the prophets of Samaria I saw a disgusting thing: they prophesied by Baal and led my people Israel astray. {14} But in the prophets of Jerusalem I have seen a more shocking thing: they commit adultery and walk in lies; they strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one turns from wickedness; all of them have become like Sodom to me, and its inhabitants like Gomorrah. {15} Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets: "I am going to make them eat wormwood, and give them poisoned water to drink; for from the prophets of Jerusalem ungodliness has spread throughout the land."

**EPISTLE** Romans 9:1-18 (NRSV)

I am speaking the truth in Christ--I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit-- {2} I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. {3} For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. {4} They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; {5} to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen. {6} It is not as though the word of God had failed. For not all Israelites truly belong to Israel, {7} and not all of Abraham's children are his true descendants; but "It is through Isaac that descendants shall be named for you." {8} This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as descendants. {9} For this is what the promise said, "About this time I will return and Sarah shall have a son." {10} Nor is that all; something similar happened to Rebecca when she had conceived children by one husband, our ancestor Isaac. {11} Even before they had been born or had done anything good or bad (so that God's purpose of election might continue, {12} not by works but by his call) she was told, "The elder shall serve the younger." {13} As it is written, "I have loved Jacob, but I have hated Esau." {14} What then are we to say? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! {15} For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." {16} So it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God who shows mercy. {17} For the scripture says to Pharaoh, "I have raised you up for the very purpose of showing my power in you, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth." {18} So then he has mercy on whomever he chooses, and he hardens the heart of whomever he chooses.

**GOSPEL** John 6:60-71 (NRSV)

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" {61} But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? {62} Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? {63} It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. {64} But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. {65} And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father." {66} Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. {67} So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" {68} Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. {69} We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." {70} Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve? Yet one of you is a devil." {71} He was speaking of Judas son of Simon Iscariot, for he, though one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

**March 22, 2021**  
**Monday - Week 5 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Jeremiah 24:1-10 (NRSV)

The LORD showed me two baskets of figs placed before the temple of the LORD. This was after King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon had taken into exile from Jerusalem King Jeconiah son of Jehoiakim of Judah, together with the officials of Judah, the artisans, and the smiths, and had brought them to Babylon. {2} One basket had very good figs, like first-ripe figs, but the other basket had very bad figs, so bad that they could not be eaten. {3} And the LORD said to me, "What do you see, Jeremiah?" I said, "Figs, the good figs very good, and the bad figs very bad, so bad that they cannot be eaten." {4} Then the word of the LORD came to me: {5} Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Like these good figs, so I will regard as good the exiles from Judah, whom I have sent away from this place to the land of the Chaldeans. {6} I will set my eyes upon them for good, and I will bring them back to this land. I will build them up, and not tear them down; I will plant them, and not pluck them up. {7} I will give them a heart to know that I am the LORD; and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart. {8} But thus says the LORD: Like the bad figs that are so bad they cannot be eaten, so will I treat King Zedekiah of Judah, his officials, the remnant of Jerusalem who remain in this land, and those who live in the land of Egypt. {9} I will make them a horror, an evil thing, to all the kingdoms of the earth--a disgrace, a byword, a taunt, and a curse in all the places where I shall drive them. {10} And I will send sword, famine, and pestilence upon them, until they are utterly destroyed from the land that I gave to them and their ancestors.

**EPISTLE** Romans 9:19-33 (NRSV)

You will say to me then, "Why then does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" {20} But who indeed are you, a human being, to argue with God? Will what is molded say to the one who molds it, "Why have you made me like this?" {21} Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one object for special use and another for ordinary use? {22} What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience the objects of wrath that are made for destruction; {23} and what if he has done so in order to make known the riches of his glory for the objects of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory-- {24} including us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles? {25} As indeed he says in Hosea, "Those who were not my people I will call 'my people,' and her who was not beloved I will call 'beloved.'" {26} "And in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' there they shall be called children of the living God." {27} And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, "Though the number of the children of Israel were like the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will be saved; {28} for the Lord will execute his sentence on the earth quickly and decisively." {29} And as Isaiah predicted, "If the Lord of hosts had not left survivors to us, we would have fared like Sodom and been made like Gomorrah." {30} What then are we to say? Gentiles, who did not strive for righteousness, have attained it, that is, righteousness through faith; {31} but Israel, who did strive for the righteousness that is based on the law, did not succeed in fulfilling that law. {32} Why not? Because they did not strive for it on the basis of faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, {33} as it is written, "See, I am laying in Zion a stone that will make people stumble, a rock that will make them fall, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

**GOSPEL** John 9:1-17 (NRSV)

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. {2} His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" {3} Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. {4} We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. {5} As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." {6} When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, {7} saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. {8} The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" {9} Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." {10} But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" {11} He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." {12} They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." {13} They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. {14} Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. {15} Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." {16} Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. {17} So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

**March 23, 2021**

**Tuesday - Week 5 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Jeremiah 25:8-17 (NRSV)

Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: Because you have not obeyed my words, {9} I am going to send for all the tribes of the north, says the LORD, even for King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon, my servant, and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants, and against all these nations around; I will utterly destroy them, and make them an object of horror and of hissing, and an everlasting disgrace. {10} And I will banish from them the sound of mirth and the sound of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp. {11} This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. {12} Then after seventy years are completed, I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity, says the LORD, making the land an everlasting waste. {13} I will bring upon that land all the words that I have uttered against it, everything written in this book, which Jeremiah prophesied against all the nations. {14} For many nations and great kings shall make slaves of them also; and I will repay them according to their deeds and the work of their hands. {15} For thus the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: Take from my hand this cup of the wine of wrath, and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it. {16} They shall drink and stagger and go out of their minds because of the sword that I am sending among them. {17} So I took the cup from the Lord's hand, and made all the nations to whom the LORD sent me drink it:

**EPISTLE** Romans 10:1-13 (NRSV)

Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. {2} I can testify that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. {3} For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they have not submitted to God's righteousness. {4} For Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. {5} Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." {6} But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) {7} "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). {8} But what does it say? "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); {9} because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. {10} For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. {11} The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." {12} For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. {13} For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

**GOSPEL** John 9:18-41 (NRSV)

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight {19} and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" {20} His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; {21} but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." {22} His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. {23} Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." {24} So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." {25} He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." {26} They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" {27} He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" {28} Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. {29} We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." {30} The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. {31} We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. {32} Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. {33} If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." {34} They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. {35} Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" {36} He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." {37} Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." {38} He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. {39} Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." {40} Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" {41} Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

**March 24, 2021**  
**Wednesday - Week 5 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Jeremiah 25:30-38 (NRSV)

You, therefore, shall prophesy against them all these words, and say to them: The LORD will roar from on high, and from his holy habitation utter his voice; he will roar mightily against his fold, and shout, like those who tread grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth. {31} The clamor will resound to the ends of the earth, for the LORD has an indictment against the nations; he is entering into judgment with all flesh, and the guilty he will put to the sword, says the LORD. {32} Thus says the LORD of hosts: See, disaster is spreading from nation to nation, and a great tempest is stirring from the farthest parts of the earth! {33} Those slain by the LORD on that day shall extend from one end of the earth to the other. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall become dung on the surface of the ground. {34} Wail, you shepherds, and cry out; roll in ashes, you lords of the flock, for the days of your slaughter have come--and your dispersions, and you shall fall like a choice vessel. {35} Flight shall fail the shepherds, and there shall be no escape for the lords of the flock. {36} Hark! the cry of the shepherds, and the wail of the lords of the flock! For the LORD is despoiling their pasture, {37} and the peaceful folds are devastated, because of the fierce anger of the LORD. {38} Like a lion he has left his covert; for their land has become a waste because of the cruel sword, and because of his fierce anger.

**EPISTLE** Romans 10:14-21 (NRSV)

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? {15} And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" {16} But not all have obeyed the good news; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" {17} So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ. {18} But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have; for "Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world." {19} Again I ask, did Israel not understand? First Moses says, "I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry." {20} Then Isaiah is so bold as to say, "I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me." {21} But of Israel he says, "All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people."

**GOSPEL** John 10:1-18 (NRSV)

"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. {2} The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. {3} The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. {4} When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. {5} They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." {6} Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. {7} So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. {8} All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. {9} I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. {10} The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. {11} "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. {12} The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away--and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. {13} The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. {14} I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, {15} just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. {16} I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. {17} For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. {18} No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

**March 25, 2021**

**Thursday - Week 5 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Jeremiah 26:1-16 (NRSV)

At the beginning of the reign of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah, this word came from the LORD: {2} Thus says the LORD: Stand in the court of the Lord's house, and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of the LORD; speak to them all the words that I command you; do not hold back a word. {3} It may be that they will listen, all of them, and will turn from their evil way, that I may change my mind about the disaster that I intend to bring on them because of their evil doings. {4} You shall say to them: Thus says the LORD: If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law that I have set before you, {5} and to heed the words of my servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently--though you have not heeded-- {6} then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth. {7} The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD. {8} And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, "You shall die! {9} Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, 'This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant?'" And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD. {10} When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the house of the LORD and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the LORD. {11} Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, "This man deserves the sentence of death because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears." {12} Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, "It is the LORD who sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. {13} Now therefore amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will change his mind about the disaster that he has pronounced against you. {14} But as for me, here I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. {15} Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will be bringing innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears." {16} Then the officials and all the people said to the priests and the prophets, "This man does not deserve the sentence of death, for he has spoken to us in the name of the LORD our God."

**EPISTLE** Romans 11:1-12 (NRSV)

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. {2} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel? {3} "Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars; I alone am left, and they are seeking my life." {4} But what is the divine reply to him? "I have kept for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal." {5} So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. {6} But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace would no longer be grace. {7} What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, {8} as it is written, "God gave them a sluggish spirit, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day." {9} And David says, "Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them; {10} let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see, and keep their backs forever bent."

{11} So I ask, have they stumbled so as to fall? By no means! But through their stumbling salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. {12} Now if their stumbling means riches for the world, and if their defeat means riches for Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!

**GOSPEL** John 10:19-42 (NRSV)

Again the Jews were divided because of these words. {20} Many of them were saying, "He has a demon and is out of his mind. Why listen to him?" {21} Others were saying, "These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?" {22} At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, {23} and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. {24} So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." {25} Jesus answered, "I have told you,

and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; {26} but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. {27} My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. {28} I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. {29} What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. {30} The Father and I are one." {31} The Jews took up stones again to stone him. {32} Jesus replied, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these are you going to stone me?" {33} The Jews answered, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you, but for blasphemy, because you, though only a human being, are making yourself God." {34} Jesus answered, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, you are gods'?" {35} If those to whom the word of God came were called 'gods'--and the scripture cannot be annulled-- {36} can you say that the one whom the Father has sanctified and sent into the world is blaspheming because I said, 'I am God's Son'?" {37} If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me. {38} But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." {39} Then they tried to arrest him again, but he escaped from their hands. {40} He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing earlier, and he remained there. {41} Many came to him, and they were saying, "John performed no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true." {42} And many believed in him there.

**March 26, 2021**  
**Friday - Week 5 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Jeremiah 29:1, 4-13 (NRSV)

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. {4} Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: {5} Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. {6} Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. {7} But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. {8} For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, {9} for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the LORD. {10} For thus says the LORD: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. {11} For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. {12} Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. {13} When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart,

**EPISTLE** Romans 11:13-24 (NRSV)

Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I glorify my ministry {14} in order to make my own people jealous, and thus save some of them. {15} For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead! {16} If the part of the dough offered as first fruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; and if the root is holy, then the branches also are holy. {17} But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, a wild olive shoot, were grafted in their place to share the rich root of the olive tree, {18} do not boast over the branches. If you do boast, remember that it is not you that support the root, but the root that supports you. {19} You will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." {20} That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand only through faith. So do not become proud, but stand in awe. {21} For if God did not spare the natural branches, perhaps he will not spare you. {22} Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness toward you, provided you continue in his kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off. {23} And even those of Israel, if they do not persist in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. {24} For if you have been cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these natural branches be grafted back into their own olive tree.

**GOSPEL** John 11:1-27 (NRSV) Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. {2} Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. {3} So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." {4} But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." {5} Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, {6} after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. {7} Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." {8} The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" {9} Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. {10} But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." {11} After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." {12} The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." {13} Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. {14} Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. {15} For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." {16} Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." {17} When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. {18} Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, {19} and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. {20} When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. {21} Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. {22} But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." {23} Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." {24} Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." {25} Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, {26} and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" {27} She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

**March 27, 2021**  
**Saturday - Week 5 of Lent - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Jeremiah 31:27-34 (NRSV)

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. {28} And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the LORD. {29} In those days they shall no longer say: "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge." {30} But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge. {31} The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. {32} It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt--a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. {33} But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. {34} No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

**EPISTLE** Romans 11:25-36 (NRSV)

So that you may not claim to be wiser than you are, brothers and sisters, I want you to understand this mystery: a hardening has come upon part of Israel, until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. {26} And so all Israel will be saved; as it is written, "Out of Zion will come the Deliverer; he will banish ungodliness from Jacob." {27} "And this is my covenant with them, when I take away their sins." {28} As regards the gospel they are enemies of God for your sake; but as regards election they are beloved, for the sake of their ancestors; {29} for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. {30} Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, {31} so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. {32} For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all. {33} O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! {34} "For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" {35} "Or who has given a gift to him, to receive a gift in return?" {36} For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen.

**GOSPEL** John 11:28-44 (NRSV)

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." {29} And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. {30} Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. {31} The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. {32} When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." {33} When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. {34} He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." {35} Jesus began to weep. {36} So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" {37} But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" {38} Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. {39} Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." {40} Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" {41} So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. {42} I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." {43} When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" {44} The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

**March 29, 2021**  
**Monday - Holy Week - Year 1**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Jeremiah 12:1-16 (NRSV)

You will be in the right, O LORD, when I lay charges against you; but let me put my case to you. Why does the way of the guilty prosper? Why do all who are treacherous thrive? {2} You plant them, and they take root; they grow and bring forth fruit; you are near in their mouths yet far from their hearts. {3} But you, O LORD, know me; You see me and test me--my heart is with you. Pull them out like sheep for the slaughter, and set them apart for the day of slaughter. {4} How long will the land mourn, and the grass of every field wither? For the wickedness of those who live in it the animals and the birds are swept away, and because people said, "He is blind to our ways." {5} If you have raced with foot-runners and they have wearied you, how will you compete with horses? And if in a safe land you fall down, how will you fare in the thickets of the Jordan? {6} For even your kinsfolk and your own family, even they have dealt treacherously with you; they are in full cry after you; do not believe them, though they speak friendly words to you. {7} I have forsaken my house, I have abandoned my heritage; I have given the beloved of my heart into the hands of her enemies. {8} My heritage has become to me like a lion in the forest; she has lifted up her voice against me-- therefore I hate her. {9} Is the hyena greedy for my heritage at my command? Are the birds of prey all around her? Go, assemble all the wild animals; bring them to devour her. {10} Many shepherds have destroyed my vineyard, they have trampled down my portion, they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness. {11} They have made it a desolation; desolate, it mourns to me. The whole land is made desolate, but no one lays it to heart. {12} Upon all the bare heights in the desert spoilers have come; for the sword of the LORD devours from one end of the land to the other; no one shall be safe. {13} They have sown wheat and have reaped thorns, they have tired themselves out but profit nothing. They shall be ashamed of their harvests because of the fierce anger of the LORD. {14} Thus says the LORD concerning all my evil neighbors who touch the heritage that I have given my people Israel to inherit: I am about to pluck them up from their land, and I will pluck up the house of Judah from among them. {15} And after I have plucked them up, I will again have compassion on them, and I will bring them again to their heritage and to their land, every one of them. {16} And then, if they will diligently learn the ways of my people, to swear by my name, "As the LORD lives," as they taught my people to swear by Baal, then they shall be built up in the midst of my people.

**EPISTLE** Philippians 3:1-14 (NRSV)

Finally, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is not troublesome to me, and for you it is a safeguard. {2} Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of those who mutilate the flesh! {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 toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

**GOSPEL** John 12:9-19 (NRSV)

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. {10} So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, {11} since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus. {12} The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. {13} So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord-- the King of Israel!" {14} Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: {15} "Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" {16} His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. {17} So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. {18} It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. {19} The Pharisees then said to one another, "You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!"

**March 30, 2021**  
**Tuesday - Holy Week - Year 1**

Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands,  
pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The LORD called me before I was born,  
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.  
He made my mouth like a sharp sword,  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow,  
in his quiver he hid me away.  
And he said to me, "You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."  
But I said, "I have labored in vain,  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the LORD,  
and my reward with my God."  
  
And now the LORD says,  
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,  
and my God has become my strength--  
he says,  
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."  
  
Thus says the LORD,  
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
the slave of rulers,  
"Kings shall see and stand up,  
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,  
because of the LORD, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

**GOSPEL** John 12:20-26 (NRSV)

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. {21} They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." {22} Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. {23} Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. {24} Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. {25} Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. {26} Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

**March 31, 2021**  
**Wednesday of Holy Week**

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord GOD has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.  
Morning by morning he wakens--  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.  
The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.  
I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.  
The Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
he who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.  
Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.  
It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

Hebrews 12:1-3

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

John 13:21-32

At supper with his friends, Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples-- the one whom Jesus loved-- was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do." Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival"; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once."

**April 1, 2021**  
**Thursday of Holy Week**

[Exodus 12:1-4, \(5-10\), 11-14](#)

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. [Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.] This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

[1 Corinthians 11:23-26](#)

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

[John 13:1-17, 31b-35](#)

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord--and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

**April 2, 2021**  
**Good Friday**

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

See, my servant shall prosper;  
he shall be exalted and lifted up,  
and shall be very high.  
Just as there were many who were astonished at him  
--so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,  
and his form beyond that of mortals--  
so he shall startle many nations;  
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;  
for that which had not been told them they shall see,  
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

Who has believed what we have heard?  
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?  
For he grew up before him like a young plant,  
and like a root out of dry ground;  
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.  
He was despised and rejected by others;  
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;  
and as one from whom others hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him of no account.

Surely he has borne our infirmities  
and carried our diseases;  
yet we accounted him stricken,  
struck down by God, and afflicted.  
But he was wounded for our transgressions,  
crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,  
and by his bruises we are healed.  
All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have all turned to our own way,  
and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.  
By a perversion of justice he was taken away.  
Who could have imagined his future?  
For he was cut off from the land of the living,  
stricken for the transgression of my people.  
They made his grave with the wicked  
and his tomb with the rich,  
although he had done no violence,  
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.  
When you make his life an offering for sin,  
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;

through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.  
Out of his anguish he shall see light;  
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.  
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,  
and he shall bear their iniquities.  
Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,  
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;  
because he poured out himself to death,  
and was numbered with the transgressors;  
yet he bore the sin of many,  
and made intercession for the transgressors.

#### Hebrews 10:16-25

The Holy Spirit testifies saying,  
"This is the covenant that I will make with them  
after those days, says the Lord:  
I will put my laws in their hearts,  
and I will write them on their minds,"

he also adds,

"I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

#### Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

#### John 18:1-19:42

Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go." This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor."

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

"They divided my clothes among themselves,  
and for my clothing they cast lots."

And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he

knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

**April 3, 2021**  
**Saturday of Holy Week**

Job 14:1-14

Job said, "A mortal, born of woman, few of days and full of trouble,  
comes up like a flower and withers,  
flees like a shadow and does not last.

Do you fix your eyes on such a one?

Do you bring me into judgment with you?

Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean?

No one can.

Since their days are determined,  
and the number of their months is known to you,  
and you have appointed the bounds that they cannot pass,  
look away from them, and desist,  
that they may enjoy, like laborers, their days.

"For there is hope for a tree,  
if it is cut down, that it will sprout again,  
and that its shoots will not cease.

Though its root grows old in the earth,  
and its stump dies in the ground,  
yet at the scent of water it will bud  
and put forth branches like a young plant.

But mortals die, and are laid low;  
humans expire, and where are they?

As waters fail from a lake,  
and a river wastes away and dries up,  
so mortals lie down and do not rise again;  
until the heavens are no more, they will not awake  
or be roused out of their sleep.

Oh that you would hide me in Sheol,  
that you would conceal me until your wrath is past,  
that you would appoint me a set time, and remember me!

If mortals die, will they live again?

All the days of my service I would wait  
until my release should come."

*or*

Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24

I am one who has seen affliction  
under the rod of God's wrath;  
he has driven and brought me  
into darkness without any light;  
against me alone he turns his hand,  
again and again, all day long.

He has made my flesh and my skin waste away,  
and broken my bones;  
he has besieged and enveloped me  
with bitterness and tribulation;  
he has made me sit in darkness  
like the dead of long ago.

He has walled me about so that I cannot escape;  
he has put heavy chains on me;

though I call and cry for help,  
    he shuts out my prayer;  
he has blocked my ways with hewn stones,  
    he has made my paths crooked.

The thought of my affliction and my homelessness  
    is wormwood and gall!  
My soul continually thinks of it  
    and is bowed down within me.  
But this I call to mind,  
    and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,  
    his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
    great is your faithfulness.  
"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,  
    "therefore I will hope in him."

#### 1 Peter 4:1-8

Since Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same intention (for whoever has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin), so as to live for the rest of your earthly life no longer by human desires but by the will of God. You have already spent enough time in doing what the Gentiles like to do, living in licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry. They are surprised that you no longer join them in the same excesses of dissipation, and so they blaspheme. But they will have to give an accounting to him who stands ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is the reason the gospel was proclaimed even to the dead, so that, though they had been judged in the flesh as everyone is judged, they might live in the spirit as God does.

The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins.

#### Matthew 27:57-66

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

#### John 19:38-42

Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.