

# 5th Sunday in Lent

*O.T. Lesson and Psalm: **Isaiah 43:16-21***

**16**

This is what the Lord says—  
he who made a way through the sea,  
a path through the mighty waters,

**17**

who drew out the chariots and horses,  
the army and reinforcements together,  
and they lay there, never to rise again,  
extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:

**18**

“Forget the former things;  
do not dwell on the past.

**19**

See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?  
I am making a way in the wilderness  
and streams in the wasteland.

**20**

The wild animals honor me,  
the jackals and the owls,  
because I provide water in the wilderness  
and streams in the wasteland,  
to give drink to my people, my chosen,

**21**

the people I formed for myself  
that they may proclaim my praise.

## **Psalm 126**

**A song of ascents.**

**1** When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dreamed.

**2** Our mouths were filled with laughter,  
our tongues with songs of joy.

Then it was said among the nations,  
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

**3** The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are filled with joy.

**4** Restore our fortunes, Lord,  
like streams in the Negev.

**5** Those who sow with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.

**6** Those who go out weeping,  
carrying seed to sow,  
will return with songs of joy,  
carrying sheaves with them.

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*Epistle Lesson:* **Philippians 3:4b-14**

**4b** If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: **5** circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; **6** as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

**7** But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. **8** What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ **9** and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. **10** I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, **11** and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

**12** Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. **13** Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, **14** I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

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*Gospel reading:* **John 12:1-8****Jesus Anointed at Bethany**

**1** Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. **2** Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. **3** Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

**4** But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, **5** "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." **6** He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

**7** "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. **8** You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."