

Fifth Sunday in Lent, Year B

Color: Purple

Scriptures: [Scripture linked to NRSV at Oremus Bible Browser]

[Jeremiah 31:31-34](#) (*A new covenant written not on stone but upon the heart*)

[Psalm 51:1-12](#) (*Create in me a clean heart, O God*)

[or] [Psalm 119:9-16](#) (*With my whole heart I seek you*)

[Hebrews 5:5-10](#) (*Through suffering Christ becomes salvation's source*)

[John 12:20-33](#) (*The grain of wheat must die to bear fruit*)

Themes: Covenant, Mercy, Forgiveness, Jesus the Savior, Sacrifice, Resurrection

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to Hymnary.org, a searchable resource with a wealth of information. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts, and the biblical/thematic references suggest the hymn's association with the morning's scriptures or themes.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (<i>HYFRYDOL</i>)	Hebrews
At the Name of Jesus (<i>KING'S WESTON</i>)	Hebrews, John
Breathe On Me, Breath of God (<i>TRENTHAM</i>)	Jeremiah
Change My Heart, O God (<i>CHANGE MY HEART</i>).....	Jeremiah, Psalms
Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy (<i>RESTORATION</i>)	Jeremiah, Psalms
He Comes to Us As One Unknown (<i>REPTON</i>)	John
Here I Am, Lord (<i>HERE I AM, LORD</i>).....	Jeremiah
In the Bulb (Hymn of Promise) (<i>PROMISE</i>).....	John
Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun (<i>DUKE STREET</i>)	Hebrews, John
Lift High the Cross (<i>CRUCIFER</i>)	John
O for a Heart to Praise My God (<i>AZMON; RICHMOND</i>)	Jeremiah, Psalms
O Jesus, I Have Promised (<i>ANGEL'S STORY; NYLAND</i>).....	John
O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go (<i>ST. MARGARET</i>).....	Jeremiah
What Wondrous Love Is This (<i>WONDRIOUS LOVE</i>)	John

ANTHEMS

E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult

At the Name of Jesus – M Hebrews, John
KING'S WESTON/Ralph Vaughan Williams
© 2006, Oxford University Press, 978-0-193-8510-16
SATB, Organ

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian – MD ... Hebrews, John
Negro Spiritual/Moses Hogan, arr.
© 1996, Hal Leonard Corp, 8703140
SATB, a cappella

Breathe On Me, Breath of God – MD Jer., Psalms
Philip Wilby
© 2007, RSCM/GIA, G-8197
SATB, Solo, Organ

O Jesus, I Have Promised – E John
Tim Shaw
© 2015, Beckenhorst Press, BP 2078
SATB, Piano

Create In Me – ME.....Psalms
Terre Johnson
© 2014, MorningStar Music, 50-6304
SATB, Piano

The Pure In Heart – MPsalms
Patrick Hawes (from *Beatitudes*)
© 2016, Walton Music, WW1648
SATB (divisi), Piano

Create In Me, O God – MPsalms
Johannes Brahms
© G. Schirmer, 7504 (also as CPDL #00047)
SATBB, A Cappella

Write Your Blessed Name – ME..... Jeremiah
K. Lee Scott
© 1989, Hope Publishing, A632
SATB, Piano (also available in SAB)

Drop, Drop, Slow Tears – MPsalms
Orlando Gibbons
Public Domain, CPDL# 12337
SSATB, a cappella

– YOUTH and CHILDREN –

Hear Me, Redeemer (Anthem In a Gospel Style)
– EPsalms
Henry Mollicone
© 1979, 1989, E.C. Schirmer, 4511
SATB, Solo, Piano

Agnus Dei – MPsalms
Sandra Howard
© 2001, Bri-Lee Music, BL282
SAB, Piano

Hymn of Promise – E John
Natalie Sleeth/Bradley Ellingboe, arr.
© 2007, Choristers Guild, CGA1120
Unison, Piano, Opt. Flute

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

This is the place of encounter, where God moves toward us.

And together, we move toward God.

It is a place of covenant, the promise of the love of God.

It is a place of confession, forgiveness, grace, and renewal.

We are here. God is here. Welcome to the meeting.

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Graceful existence integrates present, past, and future.

– SAM KEEN, *To a Dancing God*

CALL TO WORSHIP
(Adapted from Psalm 51)

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise;
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
Put a new and right spirit within me;
God of mercy and steadfast love,
Enliven in me joy of your salvation
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

— Heather Thum-Gerber*

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GATHERING PRAYER

Loving God, Promised Presence, you walk with us, suffer with us, and suffer because of us. You know, like no other, the full cost of love and yet you gladly pay it on our behalf, revealing your nature once and for all in Jesus of the Cross. Make us bold to also carry our cross and face with courage what comes our way because of the covenant of your love -- ever with us, leading us, and redeeming us. Amen.

— Warren Howell

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There is not a flower that opens, not a seed that falls into the ground, and not an ear of wheat that nods on the end of its stalk in the wind that does not preach and proclaim the greatness and mercy of God to the whole world.

There is not an act of kindness or generosity, not an act of sacrifice done, or a word of peace and gentleness spoken, not a child's prayer uttered, that does not sing hymns to God.

— THOMAS MERTON, *The Seven Storey Mountain*

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Glorious God, prepare our hearts and minds for the planting of your word. That through your spirit what is planted will grow and guide us to be your faithful people of the covenant today and in the days ahead. Amen.

— HT-G

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of covenants, you have faithfully kept your promises to us, but we have not been as committed. Our commitment falters when we fail, intentionally or not, to respond to the hurting in our world, when we do not love our neighbors as ourselves, or when we ignore to use our places of privilege to bring justice. Forgive us, merciful God, and write in our hearts your law so that we may more fully be your covenantal people through Christ our savior. Amen.

— HT-G

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ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(Inspired by Jeremiah 31:31-34)

God, through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, established a new covenant. In that new covenantal promise we are forgiven of our iniquity and God remembers our sin no more. Let us rejoice that we know the God of grace.

All: Thanks be to God!

— HT-G

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CHARGE AND BLESSING

In your journeys from this place, God journeys with you.
In your speaking as you leave, God speaks through you.
In your laughing, God laughs, and in your crying, God cries.
In your striving, God strives with you.
In your suffering, God suffers with you.
In your lying down and in your rising, God is with you too.
And in your homecoming, God is at home in you.
The peace and presence of God be with you now, and evermore.
Amen.

— WH

* Thanks to Heather Thum-Gerber for her contribution to this week's liturgies.

Warren Howell, editor