

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is
faithless.**

**From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.**

COLLECT

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God,
may we walk eagerly in that same charity
with which, out of love for the world,
your Son handed himself over to death.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Is 43:16-21

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through
the sea, a path in the great waters; who put
chariots and horse in the field and a powerful
army, which lay there never to rise again,
snuffed out, put out like a wick:
No need to recall the past,
no need to think about what was done before.
See, I am doing a new deed,
even now it comes to light; can you not see it?
Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness,
paths in the wilds.
The wild beasts will honour me,
jackals and ostriches,
because I am putting water in the wilderness
(rivers in the wild)
to give my chosen people drink.
The people I have formed for myself will sing my
praises.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 125 (126)

Response:

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

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. **(R.)**
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What
marvels
the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. **(R.)**
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. **(R.)**
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of
song,
carrying their sheaves. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

Phil 3:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians.

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh
the supreme advantage of knowing Christ
Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the
loss of everything, and I look on everything as
so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and
be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for

perfection by my own efforts, the perfection
that comes from the Law, but I want only the
perfection that comes through faith in Christ,
and is from God and based on faith. All I want is
to know Christ and the power of his resurrection
and to share his sufferings by reproducing the
pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope
to take my place in the resurrection of the dead.
Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not
yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture
the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me.
I can assure you my brothers, I am far from
thinking that I have already won. All I can say is
that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what
is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the
prize to which God calls us upwards to receive
in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

GOSPEL

Jn 8:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John.

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

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,**

(all bow during the next three lines)

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Hear us, almighty God,
and, having instilled in your servants
the teachings of the Christian faith,
graciously purify them
by the working of this sacrifice.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Has no one condemned you, woman? No one,
Lord.
Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin
no more.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We pray, almighty God,
that we may always be counted among the
members of Christ,
in whose Body and Blood we have communion.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Bless, O Lord, your people,
who long for the gift of your mercy,
and grant that what, at your prompting, they
desire
they may receive by your generous gift.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

.....
Fasting makes sense if it really chips away at
our security and, as a consequence, benefits
someone else, if it helps us cultivate the style
of the good Samaritan, who bent down to his
brother in need and took care of him.

Pope Francis

Sunday Message

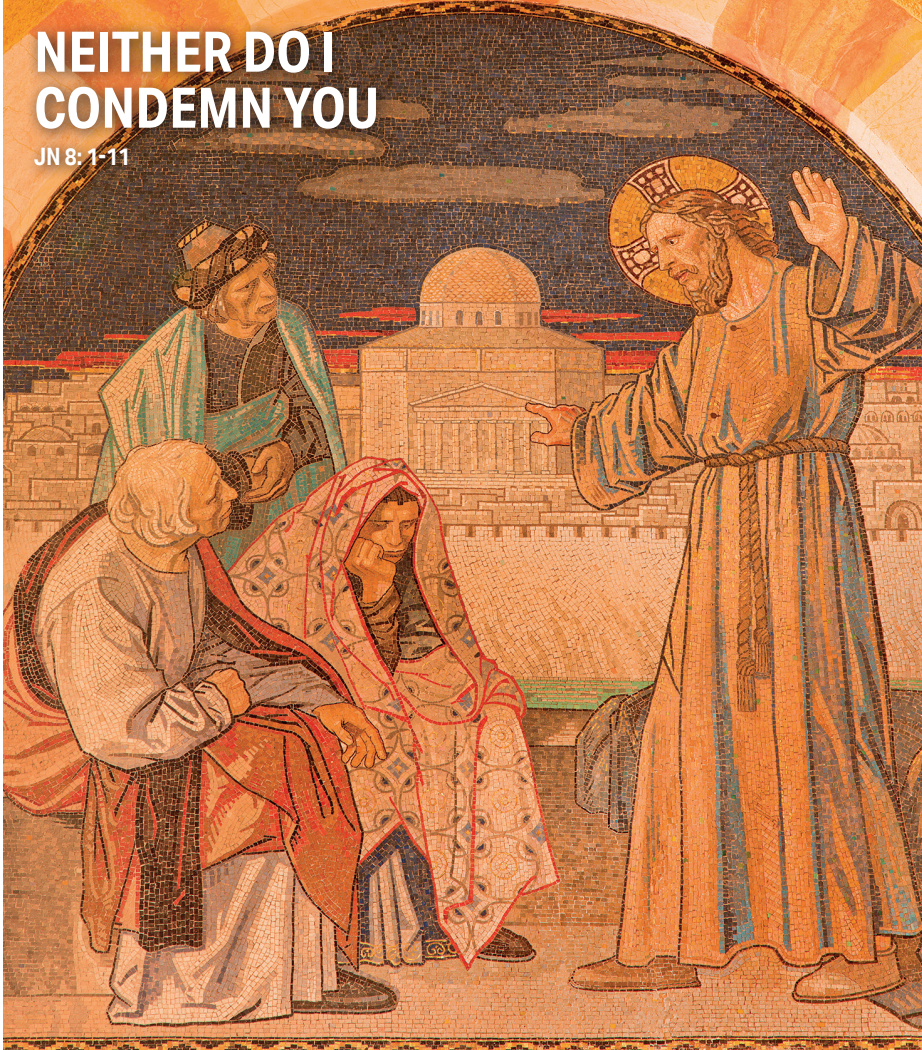
5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WORD

Year C • 6th April 2025 • Colour: Violet • Psalter Week 1

NEITHER DO I CONDEMN YOU

JN 8: 1-11



Adultery during the time of Jesus and throughout the New Testament was so widespread, that punishment was hardly ever invoked by the local leadership.

However, this doesn't deter the scribes and Pharisees from trying to entrap Jesus and asking him his opinion of the Law on the matter. The Law said that the punishment was death, but the manner of execution was unclear. The rabbis were often said to prefer the method of strangulation rather than stoning. Jesus is placed in a rather awkward position, and they are all keen to listen to his answer. If his answer is against the death penalty, he would be going against the Law and would be seen to be openly condoning adultery. If he decides for the death penalty, he might be denounced to the Romans, because the Jews didn't have the power to carry out the death penalty on their own.

He challenges the crowd. 'Let anyone who is without sin throw the first stone.' This turns the whole scene on its head, and Jesus becomes the one holding all the power. With tenderness and compassion for the woman, he informs everyone that God extends mercy to repentant sinners in order that they may turn from their sins. Unlike the Pharisees who wanted to condemn, Jesus wanted to forgive. ■

DO

Make an attempt in the coming week to articulate what the Eucharist means to you. What happens during your short time at mass that brings you back again?

LEARN

'It is time to act and during Lent, to act also means to pause.' (Pope Francis)



REFLECT

The village community has done nothing to apprehend the man with whom this woman has committed adultery (it takes two...). Only the woman is apprehended. There is discrimination, gender bias, here. She stands for those who are easily blamed because they are socially unacceptable, especially – in ancient societies – women.

Society wants to blame them and get rid of them. Put them in prison, isolate them, kill them if you need to. And make the community 'clean'.

The woman is one of most disadvantaged, pushed to the margins of the community. Like an immigrant, a foreigner, someone who should never have been there. She is made to stand in public shame in the midst of men. There is no mention of any other women present. They are all men. She is guilty of violating marital trust and is a marginalized woman. Doubly vulnerable. More still, she is being used to trap Jesus. As the commentator Denis McBride says, we can imagine ourselves in the place of the woman caught in adultery and probably have no problem filling in the faces of our accusers who are ready to heave a stone or two in our direction. The challenge of the Gospel however is whether we can see ourselves as the man who is caught up in forgiveness? Can we forgive as readily as Jesus forgives? ■

SAY

Lord Jesus Christ, nourish me with your body and blood so that I may become what I receive in showing your loving presence to the world.