

THE LESSONS APPOINTED FOR USE ON WEDNESDAY IN THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

Isaiah 49:8–15

John 5:19–29

Psalms 145:8–19

Preface of Lent

THE COLLECT

O Lord our God, you sustained your ancient people in the wilderness with bread from heaven: Feed now your pilgrim flock with the food that endures to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

OLD TESTAMENT: ISAIAH 49:8–15

Thus says the Lord:

In a time of favor I have answered you,
on a day of salvation I have helped you;

I have kept you and given you
as a covenant to the people,

to establish the land,
to apportion the desolate heritages;

saying to the prisoners, "Come out,"
to those who are in darkness, "Show yourselves."

They shall feed along the ways,
on all the bare heights shall be their pasture;
they shall not hunger or thirst,
neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down,
for he who has pity on them will lead them,
and by springs of water will guide them.

And I will turn all my mountains into a road,
and my highways shall be raised up.

Lo, these shall come from far away,
and lo, these from the north and from the west,
and these from the land of Syene.

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;
break forth, O mountains, into singing!

For the Lord has comforted his people,
and will have compassion on his suffering ones.

But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me,
my Lord has forgotten me."

Can a woman forget her nursing-child,
or show no compassion for the child of her womb?

Even these may forget,
yet I will not forget you.

PSALM 145:8–19

8. The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
9. The Lord is loving to everyone *
and his compassion is over all his works.
10. All your works praise you, O Lord, *
and your faithful servants bless you.
11. They make known the glory of your kingdom *
and speak of your power;
12. That the peoples may know of your power *
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
13. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; *
your dominion endures throughout all ages.
14. The Lord is faithful in all his words *
and merciful in all his deeds.
15. The Lord upholds all those who fall; *
he lifts up those who are bowed down.
16. The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, *
and you give them their food in due season.
17. You open wide your hand *
and satisfy the needs of every living creature.
18. The Lord is righteous in all his ways *
and loving in all his works.
19. The Lord is near to those who call upon him, *
to all who call upon him faithfully.

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 5:19–29

Jesus said to the Jews, “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. 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. Indeed, just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whomever he wishes. The Father judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son, 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. 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.

“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. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice 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.”

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