

## **THE LESSONS APPOINTED FOR USE ON THURSDAY IN THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT**

Exodus 32:7–14

John 5:30–47

Psalms 106:6–7, 19–23

*Preface of Lent*

### **THE COLLECT**

Almighty and most merciful God, drive from us all weakness of body, mind, and spirit; that, being restored to wholeness, we may with free hearts become what you intend us to be and accomplish what you want us to do; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **OLD TESTAMENT: EXODUS 32:7–14**

The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone,

so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, `It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, `I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

### **PSALM 106:6–7, 19–23**

- 6. We have sinned as our forebears did; \*  
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.
- 7. In Egypt they did not consider your marvelous works,  
nor remember the abundance of your love; \*  
they defied the Most High at the Red Sea.
- 19. Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb \*  
and worshiped a molten image;
- 20 And so they exchanged their Glory \*  
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.

21. They forgot God their Savior, \*  
who had done great things in Egypt,
22. Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, \*  
and fearful things at the Red Sea.
23. So he would have destroyed them,  
had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach,\*  
to turn away his wrath from consuming them.

### **THE GOSPEL: JOHN 5:30–47**

Jesus said, “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.

“If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. There is another who testifies on my behalf, and I know that his testimony to me is true. You sent messengers to John, and he testified to the truth. Not that I accept such human testimony, but I say these things so that you may be saved. He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. 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. And the Father who sent me has himself testified on my behalf. You have never heard his voice or seen his form, and you do not have his word abiding in you, because you do not believe him whom he has sent.

“You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. Yet you refuse to

come to me to have life. I do not accept glory from human beings. But I know that you do not have the love of God in you. 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. 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? Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; your accuser is Moses, on whom you have set your hope. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But if you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?"

*From The Lectionary Page: <http://lectionarypage.net>*