

THE LESSONS APPOINTED FOR USE ON THURSDAY IN THE FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Genesis 17: 1–8

John 8: 51–59

Psalms 105: 4–11

Preface of Lent

THE COLLECT

O God, you have called us to be your children, and have promised that those who suffer with Christ will be heirs with him of your glory: Arm us with such trust in him that we may ask no rest from his demands and have no fear in his service; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

OLD TESTAMENT: GENESIS 17:1–8

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of

you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding; and I will be their God."

PSALM 105:4–11

4. Search for the LORD and his strength; *
continually seek his face.
5. Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
6. O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.
7. He is the Lord our God; *
his judgments prevail in all the world.
8. He has always been mindful of his covenant, *
the promise he made for a thousand generations:
9. The covenant he made with Abraham, *
the oath that he swore to Isaac,
10. Which he established as a statute for Jacob, *
an everlasting covenant for Israel,
11. Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan *
to be your allotted inheritance."

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 8:51–59

Jesus said, “Very truly, I tell you, whoever keeps my word will never see death.” The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon. Abraham died, and so did the prophets; yet you say, ‘Whoever keeps my word will never taste death.’ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets also died. Who do you claim to be?” Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, he of whom you say, ‘He is our God,’ though you do not know him. But I know him; if I would say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him and I keep his word. Your ancestor Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day; he saw it and was glad.” Then the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am.” So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

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