

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

Ezekiel 37: 21–28

John 11: 45–53

Psalms 85: 1–7

Preface of Lent

THE COLLECT

O Lord, in your goodness you bestow abundant graces on your elect: Look with favor, we entreat you, upon those who in these Lenten days are being prepared for Holy Baptism, and grant them the help of your protection; 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: EZEKIEL 37:21–28

Say, Thus says the Lord GOD: I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from every quarter, and bring them to their own land. I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all. Never again shall they be two nations, and never again shall they be divided into two kingdoms. They shall never again defile themselves with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions.

I will save them from all the apo`stasies into which they have fallen, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

My servant David shall be king over them; and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall follow my ordinances and be careful to observe my statutes. They shall live in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob, in which your ancestors lived; they and their children and their children's children shall live there forever; and my servant David shall be their prince forever. I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; and I will bless them and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary among them forevermore. My dwelling place shall be with them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Then the nations shall know that I the LORD sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary is among them forevermore.

PSALM 85:1–7

1. You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
2. You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.
3. You have withdrawn all your fury *
and turned yourself from your wrathful indignation.
4. Restore us then, O God our Savior; *
let your anger depart from us.
5. Will you be displeased with us for ever? *
will you prolong your anger from age to age?

6. Will you not give us life again, *
that your people may rejoice in you?
7. Show us your mercy, O Lord, *
and grant us your salvation.

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 11:45–53

Many of the Jews who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what he had done. So the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the council, and said, “What are we to do? This man is performing many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation.” But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all! You do not understand that it is better for you to have one man die for the people than to have the whole nation destroyed.” He did not say this on his own, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus was about to die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but to gather into one the dispersed children of God. So from that day on they planned to put him to death.

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