

Sunday, March 17, 2024
The Fifth Sunday of Lent

- 1) Jeremiah 31:31-34
- 2) Hebrews 5:7-9
- 3) John 12:20-33

FOCUS: Choose the path of surrender in service to the Lord.

We want to serve and follow the Lord, but we also want to enjoy our lives and ensure that our children and grandchildren have a good life. In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges us to choose the Lord first, and the Father will honor whoever serves him. Choosing the path of surrender in service to him glorifies God and allows us to produce much fruit, including care for our own families.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Jeremiah prophesies the Lord will one day establish a new covenant with his people whereby he will write his law *upon their hearts*. The author of Hebrews says that Jesus' *prayers and supplications* were heard because of his reverence. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that the time for him to fulfill his purpose is upon him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: United in spirit, let us bring before the Lord our prayers for the Church and for the world.

- 1) For bishops, priests, and all in religious life, may the Holy Spirit continue to bless them and their ministry with abundant spiritual fruits, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all who govern nations, may the Lord guide their decisions on the path that leads to peace, justice, and the flourishing of their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For victims of violence, may the Lord bring them healing and consolation, and render his justice, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered at this liturgy, may the grace of the Eucharist strengthen our resolve to be the body of Christ in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all our beloved dead, may our Savior draw them to himself and welcome them at the table of his heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, in your goodness hear our prayers and answer them in accordance with your holy will. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.