

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent  
(Yr C)

Reading 1

*Citation:* Isaiah, Chap. 43, Verses 16-21  
Isaiah 43: 16-21

Isaiah is reassuring the Israelites to stay true to their God. He reminds them of what God said He would do. They will be cared for, saved, protected. He's excited to report what he sees. Be as excited and proud as Isaiah is.

**A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah**

Thus says the LORD, (positive statement, here) (very short pause)  
who opens a way in the sea (continuous questioning)  
and a path in the mighty waters, (very short pause)  
who leads out chariots and horsemen, (very short pause)  
a powerful army, (slow down)  
till they lie prostrate together,  
never to rise,  
snuffed out  
and quenched like a wick. (drag out the "ff's) (Pause)

Remember not the events of the past, (voice goes down)  
the things of long ago consider not; (voice goes up and then down)

see,  
I am doing something new! (God's excited!)  
Now it springs forth,  
do you not perceive it? (short pause)

In the desert I make a way, (excitement continues)  
in the wasteland,  
rivers.  
Wild beasts honor me, (God's proud!)  
jackals and ostriches,  
for I put water in the desert and rivers in the wasteland  
for my chosen people to drink, (very short pause)  
the people whom I formed for myself,  
that they might announce my praise. (triumph)

**The word of the Lord.**

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Reading 2

*Citation:* Philippians, Chap. 3, Verses 8-14  
Philippians 3: 8-14

**Paul states his sense of convinced belief in Jesus as the Christ in total confidence. He wants his listeners to bring themselves to that same sense of confidence. He is arguing but not negatively. Be as insistent as Paul!**

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians**

Brothers and sisters (very short pause)

I consider everything as a loss (very short pause)  
because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus (parenthetical?)  
my Lord. (short pause)

For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things (a bit down-beat)  
and I consider them  
so much rubbish, (disdain?) (very short pause)

that I may gain Christ (definitely up-beat!)  
and be found in him,  
not having any righteousness of my own (almost shaking your head)  
based on the law (parenthetical)  
but that which comes through faith in Christ, (very short pause)

the righteousness from God, (almost a statement of fact!) (a LIST!)  
depending on faith to know him [ a personal statement  
and the power of his resurrection [ throughout this sentence  
and the sharing of his sufferings  
by being conformed to his death,  
if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. (almost parenthetical)

It is not that I have already taken hold of it (almost shaking your head) (very short pause)  
or have already attained perfect maturity, (very short pause)  
but I continue my pursuit (almost pleading?)  
in hope that I may possess it, (humble)  
since I have indeed been taken possession of by Christ Jesus. (affirmation) (Pause)

Brothers and sisters,  
I  
for my part (parenthetical)  
do not consider myself to have taken possession.

Just one thing: (each word separately)  
forgetting what lies behind (very short pause)

**Proclamation Format**

but straining forward to what lies ahead,  
I continue my pursuit toward the goal,  
the prize of God's upward calling,  
in Christ Jesus.

(very short pause)  
(growing confidence)  
(confidence continues)  
(very confident)

**The word of the Lord.**

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Gospel

*Citation:* John, Chap. 8, Verses 1-11  
John 1: 1-11

**You must convincingly be all the characters in this passage. Be the wily Pharisees out to trap Jesus. Be the morally right Jesus with His concern for their blindness. Be the lovingly forgiving Jesus with the woman. Be the confused but grateful woman. St. John intends that we learn how to regard others with love yet firmness, regardless of their behavior. He infers it is never enough to be just righteous and "above" anyone else because of who we think we are!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. (You're a storyteller)  
But early in the morning  
he arrived again in the temple area,  
and all the people started coming to him,  
and he sat down and taught them.

Then the scribes and the Pharisees (a plot is hatched – sinister)  
brought a woman who had been caught in adultery (very short pause)  
and made her stand in the middle.

They said to him,  
"Teacher, (slight rise in volume)  
this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. (very short pause)  
Now in the law, ("as everyone knows" tone)  
Moses commanded us to stone such women.  
So what do you say?" (taunting)

They said this to test him, (reporting a fact)  
so that they could have some charge to bring against him.

Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. (very short pause)  
But  
when they continued asking him,

he straightened up and said to them,  
"Let the one among you who is without sin (almost accusatory)  
be the first to throw a stone at her." (very short pause)

Again he bent down and wrote on the ground.  
And in response, (voice goes up a bit)  
they went away  
one by one,  
beginning with the elders. (very short pause)

So he was left alone with the woman before him.  
Then Jesus straightened up and said to her,

**Proclamation Format**

"Woman,  
where are they?  
Has no one condemned you?"

(gently)

(compassionately)

She replied,  
"No one, sir."

(surprised; doesn't know what's going on)

Then Jesus said,  
"Neither do I condemn you.

(reassuring)

Go,  
and from now on do not sin any more."

(firmly)

**The Gospel of the Lord.**