

Lessons and Collects for the Fourth Sunday in Lent called "Laetare"
The Office of Morning Prayer, March 22, 2020

Psalm 25 – *Oculi mei semper ad Dominum*

We will recite Psalm 25 responsively by the whole verse

16 The sorrows of my heart are enlarged: * O bring thou me out of my troubles.

17 Look upon my adversity and misery, * and forgive me all my sin.

18 Consider mine enemies, how many they are; * and they bear a tyrannous hate against me.

19 O keep my soul, and deliver me: * let me not be confounded, for I have put my trust in thee.

20 Let perfectness and righteous dealing wait upon me; * for my hope hath been in thee.

21 Deliver Israel, O God, * out of all his troubles.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost...

As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen

The Old Testament Lesson *Laetare (Rejoice) Jerusalem*”

The Old Testament Lesson is written in the 66th Chapter of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah beginning at the 10th verse:

¹⁰ "Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice greatly with her, all you who mourn over her. ¹¹ For you will nurse and be satisfied at her comforting breasts; you will drink deeply and delight in her overflowing abundance."

¹² For this is what the LORD says: "I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream; you will nurse and be carried on her arm and dandled on her knees. Here endeth the Old Testament Lesson.

New Testament Lesson

The New Testament Lesson is written in the 4th Chapter of Paul's Letter to the Galatians beginning at the 21st verse:

²¹ Listen to me, you who want to live under the law. Do you know what the law really says? ²² The Scriptures say that Abraham had two sons, one from his slave-wife and one from his freeborn wife. ²³ The son of the slave-wife was born in a human attempt to bring about the fulfillment of God's promise. But the son of the freeborn wife was born as God's own fulfillment of his promise.

²⁴ Now these two women serve as an illustration of God's two covenants. Hagar, the slave-wife, represents Mount Sinai where people first became enslaved to the law. ²⁵ And now Jerusalem is just like Mount Sinai in Arabia, because she and her children live in slavery.

²⁶ But Sarah, the free woman, represents the heavenly Jerusalem. And she is our mother. ²⁷ That is what Isaiah meant when he prophesied, "Rejoice, O childless woman! Break forth into loud and joyful song, even though you never gave birth to a child. For the woman who could bear no children now has more than all the other women!"

²⁸ And you, dear brothers and sisters, are children of the promise, just like Isaac. ²⁹ And we who are born of the Holy Spirit are persecuted by those who want us to keep the law, just as Isaac, the child of promise, was persecuted by Ishmael, the son of the slave-wife.

³⁰ But what do the Scriptures say about that? "Get rid of the slave and her son, for the son of the slave woman will not share the family inheritance with the free woman's son." ³¹ So, dear brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, obligated to the law. We are children of the free woman, acceptable to God because of our faith. Here endeth the New Testament Lesson.

The Gospel Lesson

The Gospel Lesson is written in the 6th Chapter of John beginning at the 1st verse:

After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias. ² And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased. ³ And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples. ⁴ And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh.

⁵ When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? ⁶ And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.

⁷ Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. ⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, ⁹ There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

¹⁰ And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. ¹¹ And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

¹² When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. ¹³ Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.

¹⁴ Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world. Here endeth the Gospel Lesson.

The Collect for this Sunday

GRANT, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds do worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of thy grace may mercifully be relieved; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

The Collect for Lent

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent; Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness. may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*