Fourth Sunday after Easter

May 18, 2025

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Job 19:21-27a

Reader: A reading from the 19^{TH} chapter of the Book of Job, beginning at the 21^{st} verse.

Have pity upon me, have pity upon me, O ye my friends; for the hand of God hath touched me.

Why do ye persecute me as God, and are not satisfied with my flesh? Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book! That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever! For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another.

Reader: Here endeth the Old Testament Lesson.

PSALM 116 Dilexi, quoniam

Reader: We will read Psalm 116 responsively by the whole verse.

1 My delight is in the LORD; * because he hath heard the voice of my prayer;

2 Because he hath inclined his ear unto me; * therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.

3 The snares of death compassed me round about, * and the pains of hell gat hold upon me.

4 I found trouble and heaviness; then called I upon the Name of the LORD; * O LORD, I beseech thee, deliver my soul.

5 Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; * yea, our God is merciful.

6 The LORD preserveth the simple: * I was in misery, and he helped me.

7 Turn again then unto thy rest, O my soul; * for the LORD hath rewarded thee.

8 And why? thou hast delivered my soul from death, * mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling. 9 I will walk before the LORD * in the land of the living.

10 I believed, and therefore will I speak; but I was sore troubled: * I said in my haste, All men are liars.

11 What reward shall I give unto the LORD * for all the benefits that he hath done unto me?

12 I will receive the cup of salvation, * and call upon the Name of the LORD.13 I will pay my vows now in the presence of all his people: * right dear in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

14 Behold, O LORD, how that I am thy servant; * I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid; thou hast broken my bonds in sunder.

15 I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, * and will call upon the Name of the LORD.

16 I will pay my vows unto the LORD, in the sight of all his people, * in the courts of the LORD'S house; even in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD.

THE EPISTLE: James 1:17-21

Reader: A reading of the 1st chapter of James, beginning at the 17th verse.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

Reader: Here endeth the Epistle.

THE GOSPEL: St. John 13:31-35

Priest The Holy Gospel is written in the 13th chapter of St. John, beginning at the 31st verse.

Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him.

If God be glorified in him, God shall also glorify him in himself, and shall straightway glorify him.

Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you. A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.