

# Sunday Readings

## 6th April 2025

### Collect

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

### FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the LORD,  
who makes a way in the sea,  
a path in the mighty waters,  
who brings forth chariot and horse,  
army and warrior;  
they lie down, they cannot rise,  
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:  
'Remember not the former things,  
nor consider the things of old.  
Behold, I am doing a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.  
The wild beasts will honour me,  
the jackals and the ostriches,  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
the people whom I formed for myself  
that they might declare my praise.'

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

### Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 125. R/. v.3*

**R/. What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad.**

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,  
it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
on our lips there were songs. **R/.**

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels  
the Lord worked for them!'

What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad. **R/.**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage  
as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears  
will sing when they reap. **R/.**

They go out, they go out, full of tears,  
carrying seed for the sowing:  
they come back, they come back, full of song,  
carrying their sheaves. **R/.**

### SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians  
3:8- 14

Brothers and Sisters: I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith — that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

### GOSPEL

John 8:1-11

The Lord be with you. *And with your Spirit.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
*Glory to you, O Lord.*

At that time: Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?' This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, 'Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.' And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, Lord.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

# Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday)

Lectionary Year C

The Word of God

Saint of the Week

Sunday 6 April 2025

**Pope Sixtus I (42 to c. 124)**

He was the Bishop of Rome from c. 115 to his death c. 124. He succeeded Pope Alexander I and was succeeded by Pope Telesphorus. In the oldest documents, Xystus (from the Greek word for "polished") is the spelling used for the first three popes of that name. Pope Sixtus I is also the sixth Pope after Peter. The Holy See's *Annuario Pontificio* (2012) identifies him as a Roman who reigned from 117 or 119 to 126 or 128. All authorities agree that he reigned about ten years. Sixtus I is credited as having instituted several Roman Catholic liturgical and administrative traditions, but some historians believe that these were attributed to him by later writers who were interested in bolstering the papacy's claims to ancient supremacy. Like most of his predecessors, Sixtus I was believed to be buried near Saint Peter's grave on Vatican Hill, although there are differing traditions concerning where his body lies today. He was a Roman by birth, and his father's name was Pastor. According to the *Liber Pontificalis*, he passed the following three ordinances:

- that none but sacred ministers are allowed to touch the sacred vessels;
- that bishops who have been summoned to the Holy See shall, upon their return, not be received by their diocese except on presenting Apostolic letters;
- that after the Preface in the Mass the priest shall recite the Sanctus with the people.

Alban Butler (*Lives of the Saints*, 6 April) states that Clement X gave some of his relics to Cardinal de Retz, who placed them in the Abbey of St. Michael in Lorraine.

## Prayer of the Week

**Prayer of St. John of the Cross**

O blessed Jesus, give me stillness of soul in thee.

Let thy mighty calmness reign in me;  
rule me, O King of gentleness, King of peace.  
Give me control, great power of self-control,  
control over my words thoughts and actions.  
From all irritability, want of meekness, want of  
gentleness, dear Lord, deliver me.  
By thine own deep patience, give me patience.  
Make me in this and all things  
more and more like thee.

Amen.



'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and do not sin any more.'

In today's Gospel, Jesus responds to the angry mob's indictment of the woman caught in the act of adultery by giving permission to stone the woman, if they themselves are free from sin. From the oldest to the youngest, tightly gripped stones begin to drop. After the last thud, Jesus asks the woman if any have condemned her? She answers no, and then she finds what she has always wanted, but probably never knew where to look. She finds love - a love that allows for the less desirable in society to start again, a love that doesn't condone sin, but washes it away. Instead of stones launched by stony hearts, she is shown the tender heart of God.

Jesus certainly doesn't want us to sin. He doesn't condemn. He forgives and wants what is best for us. He accepts us in our brokenness and helps us to begin again.

