

livingtheword

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hearing and living the Sunday Readings

Reading 1

Jer 31:31-34

The days are coming, says the LORD,
when I will make a new covenant with the
house of Israel and the house of Judah.
It will not be like the covenant I made with their
fathers the day I took them by the hand
to lead them forth from the land of Egypt;
for they broke my covenant,
and I had to show myself their master, says
the LORD.

But this is the covenant that I will make
with the house of Israel after those days, says
the LORD. I will place my law within them and
write it upon their hearts;
I will be their God, and they shall be my
people.

No longer will they have need to teach their
friends and relatives how to know the LORD.
All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says
the LORD, for I will forgive their evildoing and
remember their sin no more.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15

R. (12a) Create a clean heart in me, O God.
Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness;
in the greatness of your compassion wipe out
my offense.

Thoroughly wash me from my guilt
and of my sin cleanse me.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.
A clean heart create for me, O God,
and a steadfast spirit renew within me.
Cast me not out from your presence,
and your Holy Spirit take not from me.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Give me back the joy of your salvation,
and a willing spirit sustain in me.

I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners shall return to you.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Reading II

Heb 5:7-9

In the days when Christ Jesus was in the flesh,
he offered prayers and supplications with loud
cries and tears to the one who was able to
save him from death, and he was heard
because of his reverence.

Son though he was, he learned obedience
from what he suffered; and when he was made
perfect, he became the source of eternal
salvation for all who obey him.

Gospel

Jn 12:20-33

Some Greeks who had come to worship at the
Passover Feast came to Philip, who was from
Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we
would like to see Jesus."

Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and
Philip went and told Jesus.

Jesus answered them,

"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be
glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you,
unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and
dies, it remains just a grain of wheat;
but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

Whoever loves his life loses it,
and whoever hates his life in this world
will preserve it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me,
and where I am, there also will my servant be.

The Father will honor whoever serves me.

"I am troubled now. Yet what should I say?

'Father, save me from this hour'?

But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour.

Father, glorify your name."

Then a voice came from heaven,

"I have glorified it and will glorify it again."

The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder;

but others said, "An angel has spoken to him."

Jesus answered and said,

"This voice did not come for my sake but for yours.

Now is the time of judgment on this world;

now the ruler of this world will be driven out.

And when I am lifted up from the earth,

I will draw everyone to myself."

He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.

Reflection Questions

- What word, phrase or idea struck you in the reading?
- What do you think God is trying to say to you personally?
- To enter into a covenant is like entering into a 'marriage commitment and relationship'. What is the image and picture painted of God that you hear in the first reading? What is your response?
- Psalm 51 is one of the most well known Psalms asking forgiveness. It is attributed to King David after he committed adultery with Bethsheba. What area of sin is hurting you and making you feel sad at the moment? What line in the psalm expresses the cry of your heart the best?
- Jesus' journey involved obedience and suffering, but it also became a vehicle for him being 'made perfect'. What suffering is hard for you at the moment and what is the wisdom you are learning from it?
- In the Gospel of John, the 'hour' that Jesus talks about is the moment where everything will be revealed on the cross. In all of history, it will be the 'hour' when God is revealed. Sin is forgiven. Love triumphs over violence. The drama of evil and goodness is played out. In the greek text, the phrase being 'lifted up' is a word to describe a coach being 'lifted' up onto people's shoulders to signify victory. Will I also enter the sacrificial and obedient lifestyle of 'the hour'? What 'death' is God inviting me to live so as to bear fruit?
- What is one action that you will do to 'livetheword' this week?