

The Fifth Sunday of Great Lent

Mark 10:32-45

And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him, Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles: And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again. And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldst do for us whatsoever we shall desire. And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you? They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory. But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? And they said unto him, We can. And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized: But to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared. And when the ten heard it, they began to be much displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.(KJV)

St. Mary of Egypt

Luke 7:36-50

And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat. And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner. And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on. There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged. And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven. And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also? And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace .(KJV)

The Fifth Sunday of Great Lent-St. Mary of Egypt

The Church is rapidly approaching the end of Great Lent. Each day offers believers opportunities to greatly benefit the soul. St. Mary of Egypt stands before believers in the Church as a primary example of repentance.

Daily believers are encouraged to fall down before the Lord God and seek forgiveness. The suffering of Jesus Christ on the Cross serves as the supreme reminder of Christ's love for every person.

St. Luke's Gospel for today describes Jesus' willingness to forgive sinners. Jesus' love and mercy for sinners is evident in the Gospel. St. Luke's Gospel shines the ray of hope for every sinner.

Jesus describes His forthcoming arrest, death and resurrection in St. Mark's Gospel. The journey to Pascha is guided by the foreknowledge of Jesus Christ's arrest, suffering, death and resurrection.

Believers find definition, meaning and hope for their lives in the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ creates the pathways for life eternal. Jesus' defeat of death assures believers of the possibility of the general resurrection.

The day of Jesus' return to judge the living and the dead remains unknown. Each Great Lent serves as precious time for wise believers to prepare for the Great and Final Judgment.

St. Mary of Egypt made full benefit of the opportunity to repent. St. Mary progressed from being a flagrant sinner to becoming a saint. She is an inspiring model of repentance for all in the Church.

Every person regardless of the degree of personal sin can find hope in the life of St. Mary of Egypt. Repentance is possible for believers with the mind and willingness to repent.

The Lenten journey is an immeasurable blessing for believers. The Lenten journey provides for renewal and growth in the Lord Jesus Christ. New life in Christ is great joy.

Holy Baptism is the beginning experience with Jesus Christ. Repentance keeps the believer on the narrow path to God's Kingdom. Repentance keeps the possibility of eternal life alive.

Holy Week is on the horizon. Each day remaining is an investment in the Kingdom of God. Cherish the time remaining to fully invest in God's Kingdom! Invest completely in the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. (Mt.6:33)

The Fifth Sunday of Great Lent. St. Mary of Egypt. Holy Apostle Herodion, Agabos, and Others. April 8/21, 2024. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.

Father Rodney Torbic