

## 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

The Church has arrived at the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent. Repentance and forgiveness are epitomized in the life of St. Mary of Egypt. St. Mary of Egypt led a life of sin and later repented to be a lasting example for the ages.

The Church holds St. Mary of Egypt as an example of hope for sinful believers to seek repentance. With sincere repentance, sins are forgiven and life begins anew in Jesus Christ.

Forgiveness rests with and emanates from Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ cleanses the heart, mind and soul of persons turning to Him from the depths of their being in repentance.

Great Lent exists in the Church for renewal. Wise believers use this time to be grateful, repent and receive forgiveness from Jesus Christ. Forgiveness lifts a great weight from the believer's life and renews the believer.

The Kingdom of God and eternal life await those traveling the narrow path set forth by Jesus Christ in the Church. Jesus Christ is present throughout life to accompany, guide and nourish believers.

Conscious use of the heart, mind and soul keep the believer on the narrow path. Vigilance alerts believers to the perils of the soul always lurking and present throughout life.

St. Luke's Gospel for today directs the believer's attention to Jesus' approaching death and resurrection. Jesus' love for each person epitomized in His voluntarily death on the Cross is always to be kept in mind.

Jesus' demonstration of humility in voluntarily accepting death for our salvation merits a permanent place in each heart, mind and soul. Jesus spoke clearly about humility when He taught the disciples to be servants.

Each Christian is a servant of the Lord. Each Christian is to embrace the humility exemplified in Christ. Humility and being a servant of Christ occurs when the heart, mind and soul are filled with and cherish Christ.

Great Lent is important in the Christian life for individuals seeking the Kingdom of God and the salvation of their souls. Consistent effort is required to combat the temptations to the soul and to follow Christ.

Temptations and evil in life are effectively addressed with Christ's help. Repentance, forgiveness, humility and serving Christ keep the believer on the path to the Heavenly Kingdom and eternal life.

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The Fifth Sunday of Great Lent. St. Mary of Egypt. March 16/29. 2026.

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