

Journeying Together

**Fifth Week of Lent: Wherever I am, my servant
will be**



OPENING RESPONSES

Reader: We gather in the name of the Father

**All: Who entrusted the salvation of the world
to his own beloved Son –
to live, to love,
to give his all for humanity.**

Reader: We gather in the name of the Son

**All: Whose life drew people to him
and whose death would draw even more.**

Reader: We gather in the name of the Holy Spirit

**All: Who continually brings forth new life –
enabling our lives to bear the fruits of the Kingdom continuing the
mission of the One who calls us as his disciples and friends.**

Reader: We gather...

**All: (*making the Sign of the Cross*) in the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

GOSPEL READING – John 12: 20-33

Please listen as the Gospel is read. It can help to close your eyes—or look at the person—or the image on the screen—whichever suits you best.

PERSONAL TIME WITH THE GOSPEL

For a few moments, reflect quietly on some questions. They do not have a right or wrong answer but are designed to help us to go more deeply into the Word of God.

- What does the death of a grain of wheat leading to a great harvest mean to me?
- How does Jesus draw people to himself in our own day?
- How do I feel Jesus with me in my everyday life?

GROUP REFLECTION

Here are some thoughts to help you to reflect together on the Gospel.

- When have we experienced times when things have died but then seen something new and vigorous grow in their place?
- How do we as Jesus' disciples help to draw people to him – by our own lives and actions?

LISTENING TOGETHER

Here are some thoughts drawn from the Gospel. As you listen or read them, make a note of any that strike you – either because they open up a new idea – or because they challenge you – or... any other reason!

- Jesus attracts people who do not belong to the mainstream of Jewish faith – people who are on the fringes.
- Jesus' disciples, Philip and Andrew, played an important part in bringing people to Jesus – which is our call too.
- Jesus was afraid of death but sensed that it would lead to even greater life for the world.

- Jesus' death would be horrific but glorious – how can that be?
- Where Jesus is, there his servants are... where is Jesus and what does that promise for us?
- Where we are, Jesus is also – in our families, among our friends, in workplaces, shopping centres... wherever we are, Jesus is also.
- Jesus is coming to the fulfilment of his mission on earth – but senses that it is a beginning not an ending.
- When have I experienced something dying and new life coming from it?
- What difference does knowing that Jesus is in things with me make to how I live?
- How does Jesus' anxiety about his death help me when I think about mine?

REFLECTION AND ACTION POINT FOR THE WEEK

In your journal this week, you are invited to think about what has struck you in today's Gospel. You may find that the idea of grains of wheat dying and bearing a rich harvest as something to reflect on further. Or Jesus facing the fear of dying but knowing that new life lies beyond it. Or Jesus' assertion that where he is his servants will be – and vice versa.

Note down any thoughts or insights.

As we approach the end of Lent, you might like to look back over your journal – what you have written – drawn – or otherwise recorded. See whether any patterns are emerging – or whether things you noted a few weeks ago seem to have something to say to you now.

CLOSING PRAYER

All: A pure heart create for me, O God.

Reader: Have mercy on me, God in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

All: A pure heart create for me, O God.

Reader: A pure heart create for me, O God,
Put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

All: A pure heart create for me, O God.

Reader: Give me again the joy of your help;
With a spirit of fervour sustain me,
That I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you.

**All: A pure heart create for me, O God.
Amen.**