



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Year C

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

A reading from Joshua.

⁹The LORD said to Joshua,
“Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.”
And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal,
they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month
in the plains of Jericho.

¹¹On the day after the Passover, on that very day,
they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and roasted grain.

¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land,
and the Israelites no longer had manna;
they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God, word of life. *or* The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 32

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

A reading from Second Corinthians.

¹⁶From now on, therefore,
we regard no one from a human point of view;
even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view,
we no longer know him in that way.

¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away;
look, new things have come into being!

¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us through Christ to God,
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;

¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to God’s very self,
not counting their trespasses against them,
and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ▶

²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is appealing through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God.

²¹For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Word of God, word of life. *or* The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The holy gospel according to Luke.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus.

²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So Jesus told them this parable:

^{11b}“There was a man who had two sons.

¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’

So the father divided his assets between them.

¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living.

¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need.

¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs.

¹⁶He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger!

¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you;

¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’

²⁰So he set off and went to his father.

But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ▶

²¹Then the son said to him,
'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you;
I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'
²²But the father said to his slaves,
'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him;
put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.
²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate,
²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again;
he was lost and is found!
And they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Now his elder son was in the field,
and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.
²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on.
²⁷The slave replied, 'Your brother has come,
and your father has killed the fatted calf
because he has got him back safe and sound.'
²⁸Then the elder brother became angry and refused to go in.
His father came out and began to plead with him.
²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen!
For all these years I have been working like a slave for you,
and I have never disobeyed your command,
yet you have never given me even a young goat
so that I might celebrate with my friends.
³⁰But when this son of yours came back,
who has devoured your assets with prostitutes,
you killed the fatted calf for him!'
³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me,
and all that is mine is yours.
³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice,
because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life;
he was lost and has been found.'"

The gospel of the Lord.