



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 2025

“... Go ... sin no more ...” (Jn 8:11)

‘The [Jubilee Year] theme is “**Jesus Christ our Hope**”
for He is the aim of our pilgrimage, and He Himself is the way, the path to follow.’
(Pope Francis)

THE GOSPEL

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in the middle they said to Jesus, ‘Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery and, in the Law, Moses has ordered us to stone women of this kind. What have you got to say?’ They asked him this as a test, looking for an accusation to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their questions, he straightened up and said, ‘Let the one among you who is guiltless be the first to throw a stone at her.’ Then he bent down and continued writing on the ground. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until the last one had gone and Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained in the middle. Jesus again straightened up and said, ‘Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?’ ‘No one, sir,’ she replied. ‘Neither do I condemn you,’ said Jesus. ‘Go away, and from this moment sin no more.’ (John 8:3-11)

Read and re-read the Gospel passage, pausing for words or phrases that may ‘stand out.’

Talk with Jesus about what comes to mind or take some moments to rest in God’s loving presence.

THE DESTINATION, THE WAY, THE PATH TO FOLLOW

Self-important community members drag a woman, but not the man with her, into Jesus' presence. With little interest in her they are using her to trap him. Jesus takes time to respond. While the woman stands humiliated, the accusers find that it is themselves they must judge. Jesus really sees the woman. He speaks to her with respect and compassion, focusing on her future, not her past. He does not condemn or say it doesn't matter, but "Don't sin again!" She is trusted to make better choices for a better future.

FROM FELLOW PILGRIMS – FOR REFLECTION

In Christ, what we most deeply feel ourselves to be is welcomed and loved, healed and made whole; and so given a hope, a peace and a joy not of this world. *(Tony Kelly, The Creed by Heart, 108)*

The peace and joy pertaining to the realm of Christ flow from the "life to the full" (cf Jn 10:10) that Jesus came to give. He is, in person, the fountain of eternal life... His kingdom abounds in a vitality beyond the destructive powers that now threaten our existence. *(Tony Kelly, The Creed by Heart, 160)*

God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.
(Based on Saint Augustine's words in 'The Confessions' III, 11)

Do not fear what may happen tomorrow. The same loving Father who cares for you today will care for you tomorrow and every day.
(Saint Francis de Sales quoted in Melissa LeMieux Weisenburg, Pilgrims of Hope, 287)

When our relationship with Jesus is running truly, it influences the way we see things, which is why prayer – simply giving time to our relationship with Jesus – is so important. *(Patrick O'Sullivan, Prayer and Relationships, 67)*

The hunger for God can only be satisfied by a love that is face to face, person to person. It is only in the eyes of another that we can find the Icon of Christ. We must make the other person aware that we love him. If we do, he will know that Christ loves him. He will never hunger again.
(Catherine de Hueck Doherty, Poustinia)

What is the happiness that we await and desire? Not some fleeting pleasure... We aspire to a happiness that is definitively found in the one thing that can bring us fulfilment, which is love. Thus, we will be able to say even now: I am loved, therefore I exist; and I will live forever in the love that does not disappoint, the love from which nothing can ever separate me... [nothing] "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord"
(Rom 8:38-39). (Pope Francis, Spes Non Confundit, Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee 2025, 21)

Find words or an image for

- Insights gained from your reading and prayer today.
- A hope, intention or prayer for the future.

You may like to write down your thoughts or a prayer.



THE GAP – A PRAYER

Loving God,
between the “is” and the “ought”
there is a gap.
Wide for some,
narrower for others.
But it is there,
never to be totally closed here on earth.

That gap is the land of guilt.
What should be, isn't;
What is, should be more.

The gap, I mean, between
the real and the ideal,
the actual and the potential,
yes, the sinner and the saint.

Thus, we all are struggling pilgrims,
all dwelling in between
what we are and are called to be.

**Help us therefore, to be patient,
To have compassion.
to trust in you, our merciful God. Amen.**

(Adapted from: Robert Morneau, Reconciliation, 132)



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Saint Augustine, *The Confessions* III, 11: “O good and all-powerful One, you care for each of
us as if we alone existed. You care for all with the same tenderness that you show to each

one.”; LeMieux Weisenburg, Melissa, *Pilgrims of Hope: A 2025 Catholic Prayer and Affirmation Journal for Women*, Strikersville NY: MusoWave Digital LLC, 2025; de Huek Doherty, Catherine, *Poustinia: Encountering God in Silence, Solitude, and Prayer*, Combermere, Canada: Madonna House Publ (3rd Edn.) 2000); Kelly, Tony CSsR, *The Creed by Heart: Re-Learning the Nicene Creed*, Blackburn, Vic: Harper Collins, 1996;
Adapted from: Pope Francis, *Spes Non Confundit*, Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee 2025, 21; Morneau, Robert, *Reconciliation*, Maryknoll NY: Orbis Books, 2007; O’Sullivan, Patrick SJ, *Prayer and Relationships: Staying Connected – An Ignatian Perspective*, Melbourne: David Lovell Publishing, 2008.