



Liturgy Cycle C

## **Fifth Sunday Of Lent** **Stone Throwing**

### **Introduction**

In today's Gospel we will hear the immortal words of Christ to the woman caught in adultery: 'Has no one condemned you? Neither will I condemn you. Go in peace and sin no more.' Therefore we have no need to be afraid to let Christ see our sins. We have nothing to receive from him but forgiveness.

### **First Reading (Isaiah 43: 16-21)**

This was addressed to the Jews exiled in Babylon. It assures them that there will be a new Exodus. Its message of hope should inspire us also.

### **Second Reading (Philippians 3: 8-14)**

Frequently we see holiness as something that we can achieve by our own efforts. Instead we should try to see it as something that comes through faith in Christ and in the power of his resurrection.

### **Gospel (John 8: 1-11)**

This relates the incident concerning the woman caught in adultery, and how Jesus told her accusers that they should look to their own sins before condemning her.

### **Prayer Of The Faithful**

Let us pray that we may learn from Christ's example to be kind, understanding and forgiving.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

That all who follow Christ may refrain from passing judgement on other people. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all judges and lawyers: that in the exercise of their professions they may work to ensure that in all cases the truth is heard and justice done. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who have been victims of unjust judgement and oppression. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.



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**That we may be saved from ever using the sins of others to justify our own.  
We pray to the Lord.**

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all those who are engaged in the welfare of lent: that they may persevere in their efforts to reform their lives. We pray to the Lord.**

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

### **Communion Reflection**

**When her accusers had left  
Jesus turned to the woman and asked:  
'Is it true what these man said?'  
She nodded her head.  
'That means you were in sin then.'  
Once again she nodded her head.  
'To be in sin is to be in darkness.  
And you were not made for darkness but for light.'  
He paused, then added: 'Has no one condemned you?'  
'No one, Sir,' she replied.  
'Well then, neither will I condemn you.  
Go in peace, and walk in the light,  
and do not enslave yourself again.'**

**A faint smile appeared on her tear- stained face,  
and she began to move away.  
She went slowly at first,  
as if fearing that any second he might stop her in her tracks and recall her.  
But then she picked up speed and bounded away  
with all the enthusiasm of a reluctant school-goer  
who had just been given an unexpected free day.**

**She was dismissed with infinite gentleness  
and the most dedicate of reproofs.  
How differently it might have ended  
but for the compassion of Jesus.**