LECTIONARY FOR THE FOURTH WEEK IN LENT

 Morning Evening

The 4th Sunday in Lent, Mar. 14

1st Lesson Genesis 43 Genesis 44:1–45:8

2nd Lesson Luke 15 Mark 15:1–21

Monday, Mar. 15

1st Lesson Exodus 24 Exodus 25:1--22

2nd Lesson John 7:1–24 1 Timothy 1:1--17

Tuesday, Mar. 16

1st Lesson Exodus 28:1–4, 29–41 Exodus 29:38–30:16

2nd Lesson John 7:25—end 1 Timothy 1:18–2:--end

Wednesday, Mar.17

1st Lesson Exodus 32 Exodus 33

2nd Lesson John 8:1–30 1 Timothy 3

Thursday, Mar. 18

1st Lesson Exodus 34 Exodus 35:20–36:7

2nd Lesson John 8 1 Timothy 4

Friday, Mar. 19

1st Lesson Exodus 40:17—end Leviticus 6:8--end

2nd Lesson John 9 1 Timothy 5

Saturday, Mar. 20

1st Lesson Lev, 19:1–18, 30—end Leviticus 25:1--24

2nd Lesson John 10:1–21 1 Timothy 6

The 5th Sunday in Lent (Passion Sunday)

1st Lesson Exodus 2–3--end Exodus 4:1--23

2nd Lesson Matthew 20:17–28 2 Corinthians 11:16–12:10

LENT IV

Today we enter the “second semester” of this holy season. We come to three Sundays which present to us, in turn, the threefold offices of Christ as our Redeemer and Mediator. And as we all should know, those three offices, or functions, are those of Prophet, Priest and King for his people.

In today’s Gospel, the conclusion is “This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.” Next Sunday (when Lent turns into Passion-tide),the Epistle begins, “Christ being come an high priest of good things to come.” The Gospel for next Sunday begins with Jesus asserting His sinlessness, His qualification for being the “great high priest.”

The following Sunday we will begin with the Procession of the Palms, singing “All glory, laud, and honor, to thee, redeemer King.” and then solemnly reading the Passion wherein our Saviour was crucified, wearing a crown of thorns, under a placard which read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”

So at the conclusion of Lent, the tiny seed of Epiphany has come into its own.

“manifest at Jordan’s stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme.” At His Baptism, Jesus was anointed—Christified---by the Holy Spirit to execute these three functions.” Just before Easter we see how He does so.

Everyone thought, and nearly everyone still thinks, he knows what prophets, priests, and kings are supposed to do. Our blessed Lord, however, always operated contrary to expectations. This is largely why he was crucified.

Had he conformed to the expectations of the crowd, “(the same crowd appears in all the Gospels of these three Sundays), things would have turned out very differently for Him, and we would be still in our sins. But he was a different sort of prophet, priest, and king. As a prophet, He fulfilled prophecy and brought it to an end. The earlier prophets declared, “Thus saith the Lord.” Jesus Chtist declares,”But I say unto you.”As a priest, He made a sacrifice of Himself. The priests of the Old Testament offered lambs, bulls, and goats at no expense to themselves..But in Jesus Christ, priest and victim are one and the same. As a king, He took the form of a servant. Pontius Pilate asked in amazement, “Art thou a king, then?” King Jesus, plying the trade of a carpenter, and dying a criminal’s death, turned the very notion of kingship upside down.

His prophetic office is the one before us on Lent IV. He was the last of a line of prophets “which have been since the world began.” Although Jesus had much to say about the future, there is an awful finality in all His sayimgs. He is God’s last and final Word to us, because He was the Word Made Flesh. LKW