**FOR THE WEEKEND OF APR. 5-6, 2025**

Fifth Sunday of Lent

**Gospel Reading**

Jn 8:1-11

[Then each went to his own house,]

while Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area, and all the people

started coming to him, and he sat down and taught them.

Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in

adultery and made her stand in the middle.

They said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of

committing adultery.

Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you

say?”

They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring

against him. Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his

finger.

But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them,

“Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”

Again, he bent down and wrote on the ground.

And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So, he

was left alone with the woman before him.

Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no

one condemned you?”

She replied, “No one, sir.” Then Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go,

[and] from now on do not sin anymore.”

**Intercession**

May we imitate Christ’s love and mercy, modeled repeatedly throughout the Gospel, to others in our daily lives, including support of the Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal.

**Copy for Bulletin Announcement**

It’s so easy to condemn the shortcomings of others, to point the finger outward instead of looking inward. Jesus doesn’t condemn. He invites us in. He doesn’t exclude.

The people in the Gospel, those with stones in their hands, reflect on Jesus’ simple but powerful statement: “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” They saw in themselves guilt. But they also recognized that in stoning the adulteress they’d add yet another sin, judgement, to their list of existing wrongdoings. When they listen to Jesus, they avoid compounding sin.

The path Jesus lays out is a path of salvation, for all of us. All of us need His mercy. All of us need His redemptive love. We can be a bearer of this mercy and love to others when we support programs that draw others to Christ, such as the Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal. Please consider contributing to the appeal this Lent.

**Copy for Pulpit Announcement**

Jesus, in words and deeds, tells us repeatedly not to look out but in. He wasn’t concerned with outward appearances. He dined with tax collectors, who were reviled by many. He let a prostitute wash his feet with her tears. He called common tradesmen and fishermen his disciples. He cautioned against overt displays of religious pride. He invited listeners to check their own hearts instead of pointing their fingers at others.

What a blessing to have so many examples of God’s mercy in the Gospel to remind us that while we are sinners, we can have communion with Christ. Jesus’ ministry was about healing, forgiving, loving. We may feel shame for our actions, we may condemn our own sinfulness, but we have Christ’s healing mercy to restore us.

Let us help spread this message of mercy and love to others who, like us, need to be reminded that only Christ can make us whole. Please consider a gift to the Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal to share the light of Christ with those in darkness.

**Social Media Post/Content**

Photo: Drawing in the sand OR colorful garden

Header: “Neither do I condemn you.” – John 8:11

Copy: Let’s remember to tend our own gardens! When we support of the Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal, we bring God’s mercy – not judgment – to those who need it.