

Readings for 21st March

Jeremiah 31:31-34

'The days are coming,' declares the LORD,
 'when I will make a new covenant
with the people of Israel
 and with the people of Judah.

It will not be like the covenant
 I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand
 to lead them out of Egypt,
because they broke my covenant,
 though I was a husband to them,'
declares the LORD.

'This is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel
 after that time,' declares the LORD.

'I will put my law in their minds
 and write it on their hearts.

I will be their God,
 and they will be my people.

No longer will they teach their neighbour,
 or say to one another, "Know the LORD,"
because they will all know me,
 from the least of them to the greatest,'
declares the LORD.

'For I will forgive their wickedness
 and will remember their sins no more.'

John 12:20-33

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. 'Sir,' they said, 'we would like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

Jesus replied, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.

'Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!'

Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.' The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

Jesus said, 'This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.