

April 6, 2003  
**Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Hebrews 5:7-9  
John 12:20-33



**Focus** Use your life, or lose it!

**Opening Prayer** I give you, God, my heart and my hands and my mind. Make of me what pleases you.

**Scripture Sharing** What thought, line or image from the Scripture readings caught your attention?

**Reflection** In the Gospel, John tells us about the last hours of Jesus. Jesus knows why he is here on earth. He has come to suffer and die so that we can all go to heaven. He can ask his Father to let him out of the deal, but he loves his Father and he loves us. So he goes through with suffering and death.

We can sense that Jesus says to us: I made the right choice for you. What choice are you going to make? Will you live your life for yourself? Or will you be like the seed that fell to the ground and grew, producing fruit? Will you give your life to God? Will you allow yourself to be influenced by God and let God shape you?

Whenever we make changes in life, caused by either physical or spiritual pain, we can look to God's faithfulness to see us through. God remains with us forever. God remembers all who follow his ways.

God sent the Holy Spirit to guide us in good times and in bad. Be open to the Holy Spirit's inspirations.

### **Faith Sharing**

1. God gave us a new covenant and asked us to follow Jesus' way. How can you change the ways you fail to follow Jesus?
2. What specific thing do you do to "lose your life in order to save it"?
3. How can you learn more about how God wants you to live? What sacrifices may be involved?
4. How do you share your talents, resources and time with others?

**Action Response:** *How do you live stewardship as your way of life?*

1. Select one chapter of a Gospel and read it every day this week. Reflect on it all week and each day and write down some thoughts. On the last day, read over your notes to see how God has spoken to you.
2. Set aside one hour each week to help or visit with someone. This could include a family member.
3. Give money or food to a food pantry.
4. Read a faith-inspiring book.

### **Closing Prayer**

Individuals offer their intentions to bring to prayer.

Holy Trinity, we accept you as our God and know we are nothing without you. We could not walk, talk, eat, smell, love or feel without you. We do not want to live for ourselves alone. Change us as you will. We look forward to being in heaven with you when our time of death comes. Amen.