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Listening to the Word of God

March 21TH 2021 Fifth Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

“I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” What Jeremiah envisions here is what we receive in Baptism. We receive the heart of Christ who is the fulfillment of the law. By being a part of the Body of Christ, we now have Jesus’ desires and love within us. If we rely on this relationship that is freely given to us and nourish it the law will be in our hearts as it is in Jesus’. Have you ever thought about Baptism in this way?

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

“Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.” Jesus is the source of salvation because we can be a part of His perfect body by Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. By having Christ live in us we too can learn to be obedient to the Father’s will. Is there any area of my life where I am not obedient to the will of the Father? What commandment or Beatitude do I have the hardest being obedient to?

Gospel John 12:20-33:

“Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life.” Do I hate my life? How much is it my concern to preserve my life, of make it more comfortable and fun to me?