



## Fifth Sunday of Lent

### ***Isaiah 43:16-21***

*This is what the Lord says - he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters, who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.*

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Dear Redeemer, Lord and King, I am thirsty for Your assurance and lasting peace. I cry out to You about areas of darkness and uncertainty in my life and in the world around me. Time and time again, You have made impossible paths in the wilderness for people with nowhere to turn.

Increase my faith that You will do the same for me. Remove any doubt in my mind that You would withhold Your blessings on the present day. Fill my heart with hope and let my tongue pray for miracles.

Have mercy on me, Lord, and shine Your holy light on me. Drench my body in light like the afternoon sun. Minimize my shadow that seems at times to loom over me and illuminate my next steps. If I am so blessed to see, hear or perceive the path You have set out before me, strengthen me to walk in trust towards Your goodness. Your justice, Your judgement, Your redemption are ultimately Your loving work to restore Your people and Your church. I am Yours. I encourage Your people and I am Your church.

I commit in my body and soul to not look back at the former things. I will cultivate trust that You are all I need as I follow You into a wilderness that is new to me, but known well to You. Be my sherpa, my guide, on the well worn path to transformation.