

5th Sunday Lent Year B 2024

John 12:20-30

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, "Sir, we should like to see Jesus".

Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them: Now the hour has come for the Son of



Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.

Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour.

Father, glorify your name!"

A voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clasp of thunder; others said, "It was an angel speaking to him." Jesus answered, "It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

"Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall



draw all men to myself." By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

Reflection on the Gospel

For three years, despite resistance and many hardships, Jesus devoted himself to the proclamation of the kingdom in word and deed. One fruit of this total self-giving was the bonding of a group of disciples around him, including Philip and Andrew. Another was the spreading of news about him beyond the Jewish community "Sir, we would like to see Jesus" – right down to the present day.

Two thousand years on we, mark the ultimate self-giving of Jesus on the cross and profess our praise and our thanks. We know that following Jesus in self-giving remains challenging. But look again to the words of Jesus, especially the line "If anyone serves me my Father will honour him". What an amazing word of encouragement, affirmation and promise! Yes, the Gospel demands perseverance and humility, but has God ever been untrue to his word? Could a greater honour be bestowed on any of us?

"I shall draw all to myself"