



MARCH 22, 2015
**FIFTH SUNDAY
 OF LENT**



JEREMIAH 31:31-34

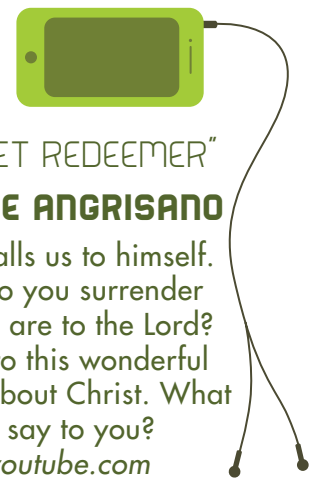
PSALM 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15

HEBREWS 5:7-9

JOHN 12:20-33

REFLECTION

Sofia wishes she could hang out with her friends after school, but instead she goes home to stay with her elderly grandmother who can't be left alone. Jamie's brother Eric has autism. Eric sometimes speaks too loudly or gets upset in church. Even though he's sometimes embarrassed by his brother's outbursts, Jamie brings him anyway because it is important to his dad. Jen makes dinner and gets her little sisters ready for bed even though she has to get her homework done at the same time. Her mom has to work two jobs and Jen knows she can help her family by being there for her sisters. These are true stories of real teenagers who, each in their own way, are dying to self. They are giving up something they would prefer so they can be of service to someone else. Jesus talks about the grain of wheat that has to die before it can "bear much fruit" (John 15:8). This reading comes just before Jesus's suffering and death. We can share in his dying to self and in bearing fruit when we put aside our own needs or desires to help another person.



"SWEET REDEEMER"

STEVE ANGRISANO

God calls us to himself. How do you surrender all you are to the Lord? Listen to this wonderful song about Christ. What does it say to you?

www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwk1Us5R6Lc

ACTION

This week give something up so that someone else can benefit. It could be something small like letting someone else (family or friends) pick the movie you're going to watch or choose the music in the car, or it could be something bigger.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- When is it hardest for you to give up what you want for someone else? When is it something you want to do?
- How's Lent going for you? Would you say you've grown closer to God or not? Is there anything you want to commit to do (or not do) for this last week of Lent and Holy Week?