

Sunday, February 4, 2024

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany / Lectionary 5, Year B

First Reading Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Second Reading 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

A READING FROM ISAIAH

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

²³who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

*(If the Psalm is sung by the choir, you will not be required to lead the Psalm.
Check the day's worship bulletin to confirm one way or the other)*

PLEASE JOIN ME IN READING THE 147th PSALM IN UNISON

¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises ¹ to our God!
How pleasant it is to honor ¹ God with praise!

²**The LORD re- ¹ builds Jerusalem,
and gathers the ex- ¹ iles of Israel.**

³The LORD heals the ¹ brokenhearted
and binds ¹ up their wounds.

⁴**The LORD counts the number ¹ of the stars
and calls them all ¹ by their names. R**

⁵Great is our LORD and might- ¹ y in power;
there is no limit ¹ to God's wisdom.

⁶**The LORD lifts ¹ up the lowly,
but casts the wicked ¹ to the ground.**

⁷Sing to the LORD ¹ with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp ¹ to our God,

⁸**who covers the heav- ¹ ens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow up- ¹ on
the mountains. R**

⁹God provides food ¹ for the cattle
and for the young ravens ¹ when they cry.

¹⁰**God is not impressed by the might ¹ of a horse,
and has no pleasure in the speed ¹ of a runner,**

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who ¹ fear the LORD,
in those who await God's steadfast love. ^{20c1} Hallelujah! **R**

A READING FROM 1st CORINTHIANS

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!

¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD

Sunday, February 11, 2024

Transfiguration of Our Lord / Last Sunday after Epiphany, Year B

First Reading 2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm Psalm 50:1-6
Second Reading 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

A READING FROM 2nd KINGS

¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." ¹⁰He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

*(If the Psalm is sung by the choir, you will not be required to lead the Psalm.
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PLEASE JOIN ME IN READING THE 50th PSALM IN UNISON

¹The mighty one, God the ¹ LORD, has spoken;
calling the earth from the rising of the sun ¹ to its setting.

²**Out of Zion, perfect ¹ in its beauty,
God shines ¹ forth in glory. R**

³Our God will come and will ¹ not keep silence;
with a consuming flame before, and round about a ¹ raging storm.

⁴**God calls the heavens and the earth ¹ from above
to witness the judgment ¹ of the people.**

⁵"Gather before me my ¹ loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed ¹ it with sacrifice."

⁶**The heavens declare the rightness ¹ of God's cause,
for it is God ¹ who is judge. R**

A READING FROM 2nd CORINTHIANS

³Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD**

Sunday, February 18, 2024

First Sunday in Lent, Year B

First Reading Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm Psalm 25:1-10
Second Reading 1 Peter 3:18-22

A READING FROM GENESIS

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

THE WORD OF THE LORD **THANKS BE TO GOD**

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PLEASE JOIN ME IN READING THE 25th PSALM IN UNISON

¹To I you, O LORD,
I lift I up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be I put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph I over me.**

³Let none who look to you be I put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame I who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your I ways, O LORD,
and teach I me your paths. R**

⁵Lead me in your I truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all I the day
long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- I sion and love,
for they are from I everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and I my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your
good- I ness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and up- I right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners I in your way. R**

⁹You lead the low- I ly in justice
and teach the low- I ly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast I love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your I testimonies. R**

A READING FROM 1ST PETER

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD**

Sunday, February 25, 2024
Second Sunday in Lent, Year B

First Reading Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm Psalm 22:23-31
Second Reading Romans 4:13-25

A READING FROM GENESIS

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD

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PLEASE JOIN ME IN READING THE 22nd PSALM IN UNISON

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's ¹ line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- ¹ spring of Israel.

²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their
poverty; neither is the LORD's face hid- ¹ den from them;
but when they cry out, ¹ the LORD hears them.**

²⁵From you comes my praise in the ¹ great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who ¹ fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat ¹ and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts ¹ live
forever! R**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn ¹ to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow ¹ before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs ¹ to the LORD,
who rules o- ¹ ver the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow ¹ down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- ¹ fore
the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall ¹ serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to genera- ¹ tions to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people ¹ yet unborn,
saying to them, "The ¹ LORD has acted!" **R**

A READING FROM ROMANS

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD