Sunday, July 7, 2024 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost (Year B)

First Reading Ezekiel 2:1-5
Psalm Psalm 123

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

A READING FROM EZEKIEL

¹[A voice] said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.²And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. ³He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord God." ⁵Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

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 123rd PSALM IN UNISON

¹To you I lift [|] up my eyes, to you enthroned [|] in the heavens.

²As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, and the eyes of a maid to the hand | of her mistress,

so our eyes look to you, O LORD our God, until you show $^{\rm I}$ us your mercy. R

³Have mercy upon us, O ¹ LORD, have mercy, for we have had more than enough ¹ of contempt, ⁴too much of the scorn of the in- ¹ dolent rich, and of the derision ¹ of the proud. R

A READING FROM SECOND CORINTHIANS

²I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—4was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, 9but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Sunday, July 14, 2024 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost (Year B)

First Reading Amos 7:7-15
Psalm Psalm 85:8-13
Second Reading Ephesians 1:3-14

A READING FROM AMOS

⁷This is what [the Lord God] showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸And the Lord said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

"See, I am setting a plumb line

in the midst of my people Israel;

I will never again pass them by;

⁹the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,

and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,

and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

¹⁰Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹For thus Amos has said,

'Jeroboam shall die by the sword,

and Israel must go into exile

away from his land."

¹²And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

¹⁴Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"

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 85TH PSALM IN UNISON

⁸I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying;

for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their I hearts to you.

- ⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you, that your glory may dwell | in our land. R
- ¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have ^I met together; righteousness and peace have ^I kissed each other.
- ¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth, and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.
- ¹²The LORD will indeed ^I grant prosperity, and our land will ^I yield its increase.
- ¹³Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD and shall prepare for | God a pathway. R

A READING FROM EPHESIANS

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our ULY on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Sunday, July 21, 2024 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm Psalm 23

Second Reading Ephesians 2:11-22

A READING FROM JEREMIAH

¹Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. ²Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

(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 23rd PSALM IN UNISON

¹The Lord I is my shepherd;

I shall not I be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures and leads me be- | side still waters.

³You restore my ¹ soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways ¹ for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me. R

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence ^I of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is ^I running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever. R

A READING FROM EPHESIANS

¹¹Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision"—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—12 remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸ for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²²in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Sunday, July 28, 2004 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost (Year B)

First Reading 2 Kings 4:42-44
Psalm Psalm 145:10-18
Second Reading Ephesians 3:14-21

A READING FROM SECOND KINGS

⁴²A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to [Elisha,] the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, "Give it to the people and let them eat." ⁴³But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" So he repeated, "Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, 'They shall eat and have some left.'" ⁴⁴He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

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 145TH PSALM IN UNISON

- ¹⁰All your works shall praise I you, O LORD, and your faithful I ones shall bless you.
- 11They shall tell of the glory | of your kingdom and speak | of your power,
- ¹²that all people may know ^I of your power and the glorious splendor ^I of your kingdom.
- ¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures through- | out all ages.

You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in | all your works. R

- ¹⁴The Lord upholds all ¹ those who fall and lifts up those who ¹ are bowed down.
- ¹⁵The eyes of all wait upon | you, O LORD, and you give them their food | in due season.
- ¹⁶You open ^I wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every ^I living thing.

¹⁷You are righteous in | all your ways and loving in | all your works.

¹⁸You are near to all who ^I call upon you, to all who call up- ^I on you faithfully. **R**

A READING FROM EPHESIANS

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.