

Sunday, October 1, 2023
Lectionary 26, Year A, 18th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalm Psalm 25:1-9
Second Reading Philippians 2:1-13

A READING FROM EZEKIEL

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

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 25th PSALM IN UNISON

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

**²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to
shame,**

nor let my enemies triumph | over me.

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

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

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

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

**⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my
transgressions;**

**remember me according to your steadfast love and for
the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.**

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

**⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way. R**

A READING FROM PHILIPPIANS

**¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation
from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and
sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having
the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing**

from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD

Sunday, October 8, 2023
Lectionary 27, Year A, 19th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm Psalm 80:7-15
Second Reading Philippians 3:4b-14

A READING FROM ISAIAH

¹Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

²He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

⁵And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

⁶I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

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 80th PSALM IN UNISON

⁷**Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.**

⁸**You have brought a vine | out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and | planted it.**

⁹**You cleared the | ground for it;
it took root and | filled the land.**

¹⁰**The mountains were covered | by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees | by its boughs. R**

¹¹**You stretched out its tendrils | to the sea
and its branches | to the river.**

¹²**Why have you broken | down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck | off its grapes?**

**¹³The wild boar of the forest has | ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have | grazed upon it.
¹⁴Turn now, O | God of hosts,
look | down from heaven;
¹⁵behold and | tend this vine;
preserve what your right | hand has planted. R**

A READING FROM PHILIPPIANS

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

Sunday, October 15, 2023
Lectionary 28, Year A, 20th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm Psalm 23
Second Reading Philippians 4:1-9

A READING FROM ISAIAH

¹O LORD, you are my God;
I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

²For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of aliens is a city no more,
it will never be rebuilt.

³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained
clear.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the
earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
⁹It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might
save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

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 23rd PSALM IN UNISON

**The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow
of death,
I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff
they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.**

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

A READING FROM PHILIPPIANS

¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

Sunday, October 22, 2023
Lectionary 29, Year A, 21st Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading Isaiah 45:1-7
Psalm Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]
Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

A READING FROM ISAIAH

¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:

²I will go before you
and level the mountains,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
³I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I surname you, though you do not know me.

⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.

I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.

⁷I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.

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 96th PSALM IN UNISON

- ¹**Sing to the LORD^l a new song;
sing to the LORD,^l all the earth.**
- ²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name^l of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from^l day to day.**
- ³**Declare God's glory a-^l mong the nations
and God's wonders a-^l mong all peoples.**
- ⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly^l to be praised,
more to be feared^l than all gods. R**
- ⁵**As for all the gods of the nations, they^l are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have^l made the heavens.**
- ⁶**Majesty and magnificence are^l in your presence;
power and splendor are in your^l sanctuary.**
- ⁷**Ascribe to the LORD, you families^l of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon-^l or and power.**
- ⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the^l holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts^l of the LORD. R**
- ⁹**Worship the LORD in the beau-^l ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD,^l all the earth.**
- [¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The^l LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be
moved will judge the peo-^l ples with equity."**
- ¹¹**Let the heavens rejoice, and let the^l earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be
joyful and all that^l is therein.**

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O LORD,
for you come to | judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with your truth. **R**

A READING FROM 1 THESSALONIANS

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead— Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD

Sunday, October 29, 2023
Lectionary 30, Year A, Reformation Sunday

First Reading Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm Psalm 46
Second Reading Romans 3:19-28

A READING FROM JEREMIAH

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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 46th PSALM IN UNISON

**¹God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.**

**²Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the
sea;**

**³though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.**

**⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of
God,
the holy habitation of | the Most High.**

**⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.**

**⁶The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth | melts away. R**

**⁷The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.**

**⁸Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;**

**⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the
world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns
the | shields with fire.**

**¹⁰“Be still, then, and know that | I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be
exalted | in the earth.”**

**¹¹The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. R**

A READING FROM ROMANS

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD