

**Sunday, July 2, 2023**

**Lectionary 13, Year A, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

First Reading           Jeremiah 28:5-9  
Psalm                    Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18  
Second Reading       Romans 6:12-23

## **A READING FROM JEREMIAH**

<sup>5</sup>The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD; <sup>6</sup>and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. <sup>7</sup>But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. <sup>8</sup>The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. <sup>9</sup>As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

## **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 89<sup>th</sup> PSALM IN UNISON**

**<sup>1</sup>Your love, O LORD, forever | will I sing;  
from age to age my mouth will pro- | claim your faithfulness.  
<sup>2</sup>For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is estab- | lished  
forever;  
you have set your faithfulness firmly | in the heavens.  
<sup>3</sup>"I have made a covenant with my | chosen one;  
I have sworn an oath to Da- | vid my servant:  
<sup>4</sup>I will establish your | line forever,  
and preserve your throne for all | generations.'" R  
<sup>15</sup>Happy are the people who know the | festal shout!**

**They walk, O LORD, in the light | of your presence.**  
**<sup>16</sup>They rejoice daily | in your name;**  
**they are jubilant | in your righteousness.**  
**<sup>17</sup>For you are the glory | of their strength,**  
**and by your favor our might | is exalted.**  
**<sup>18</sup>Truly, our shield belongs | to the LORD;**  
**our king to the Holy | One of Israel. R**

## **A READING FROM ROMANS**

<sup>12</sup>Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. <sup>13</sup>No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. <sup>14</sup>For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

<sup>15</sup>What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup>But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, <sup>18</sup>and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. <sup>19</sup>I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

<sup>20</sup>When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup>So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup>But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. <sup>23</sup>For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

**Sunday, July 9, 2023**

**Lectionary 14, Year A, 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

First Reading            Zechariah 9:9-12  
Psalm                     Psalm 145:8-14  
Second Reading        Romans 7:15-25a

## **A READING FROM ZECHARIAH**

<sup>9</sup>Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;  
triumphant and victorious is he,  
humble and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup>He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
and the war-horse from Jerusalem;  
and the battle bow shall be cut off,  
and he shall command peace to the nations;  
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

<sup>11</sup>As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,  
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

<sup>12</sup>Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;  
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

## **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 145<sup>th</sup> PSALM IN UNISON**

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD is gracious and full <sup>|</sup> of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in <sup>|</sup> steadfast love.**

<sup>9</sup>**LORD, you are <sup>|</sup> good to all,  
and your compassion is over <sup>|</sup> all your works. R**

<sup>10</sup>**All your works shall praise <sup>|</sup> you, O LORD,**

**and your faithful | ones shall bless you.**

**<sup>11</sup>They shall tell of the glory | of your kingdom  
and speak | of your power,**

**<sup>12</sup>that all people may know | of your power  
and the glorious splendor | of your kingdom.**

**<sup>13</sup>Your 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.**

**<sup>14</sup>The Lord upholds all | those who fall  
and lifts up those who | are bowed down. R**

## **A READING FROM ROMANS**

<sup>15</sup>I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup>But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. <sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup>So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup>For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup>but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup>Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25a</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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

**Sunday, July 16, 2023**

**Lectionary 15, Year A, 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

First Reading            Isaiah 55:10-13  
Psalm                     Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13  
Second Reading        Romans 8:1-11

## **A READING FROM ISAIAH**

<sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

<sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;

it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,

and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup>For you shall go out in joy,

and be led back in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you

shall burst into song,

and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;

instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;

and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,

for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

***THANKS BE TO GOD***

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*(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 65<sup>th</sup> PSALM IN UNISON**

[ **<sup>1</sup>You are to be praised, O | God, in Zion;  
to you shall vows | be fulfilled.**

**<sup>2</sup>To you, the one | who answers prayer,  
to you all | flesh shall come.**

**<sup>3</sup>Our sins are strong- | er than we are,  
but you blot out | our transgressions.**

**<sup>4</sup>Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your | courts to  
dwell there!**

**They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the  
holiness | of your temple. R**

**<sup>5</sup>Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of  
| our salvation,**

**O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans | far away.**

**<sup>6</sup>You make firm the mountains | by your power;  
you are girded a- | bout with might.**

**<sup>7</sup>You still the roaring | of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor | of the peoples.**

**<sup>8</sup>Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your |  
marvelous signs;**

**you make the dawn and the dusk to | sing for joy. R**

] **<sup>9</sup>You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very  
plenteous; the river of God is | full of water.**

**You prepare the grain, for so you provide | for the earth.**

**<sup>10</sup>You drench the furrows and smooth | out the ridges;  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and | bless its increase.**

**<sup>11</sup>You crown the year | with your goodness,  
and your paths over- | flow with plenty.**

**<sup>12</sup>May the fields of the wilderness be | rich for grazing,  
and the hills be | clothed with joy.**

**<sup>13</sup>May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys  
cloak them- | selves with grain;**

**let them shout for | joy and sing. R**

## **A READING FROM ROMANS**

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

**Sunday, July 23, 2023**

**Lectionary 16, Year A, 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

First Reading            Isaiah 44:6-8  
Psalm                     Psalm 86:11-17  
Second Reading        Romans 8:12-25

## **A READING FROM ISAIAH**

<sup>6</sup>Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,  
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:  
I am the first and I am the last;  
besides me there is no god.

<sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,  
let them declare and set it forth before me.  
Who has announced from of old the things to come?  
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

<sup>8</sup>Do not fear, or be afraid;  
have I not told you from of old and declared it?  
You are my witnesses!  
Is there any god besides me?  
There is no other rock; I know not one.

## **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 86<sup>th</sup> PSALM IN UNISON**

**<sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk | in your truth;  
give me an undivided heart to re- | vere your name.**

**<sup>12</sup>I will thank you, O Lord my God, with | all my heart,  
and glorify your name for- | evermore. R**

**<sup>13</sup>For great is your | love toward me;  
you have delivered me from the | pit of death.**

**<sup>14</sup>The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent  
people | seeks my life;**



**they have not set you before their eyes.**

**<sup>15</sup>But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.**

**<sup>16</sup>Turn to me and have mercy on me; give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**

**<sup>17</sup>Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame;**

**because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me. R**

## **A READING FROM ROMANS**

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

<sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

<sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

**Sunday, July 30, 2023**

**Lectionary 17, Year A, 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

First Reading            1 Kings 3:5-12  
Psalm                     Psalm 119:129-136  
Second Reading        Romans 8:26-39

### **A READING FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> KINGS**

<sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" <sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

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

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*(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 119<sup>th</sup> PSALM IN UNISON**

- 129**Your de- | crees are wonderful;  
therefore I obey them with | all my heart.
- 130**When your word is opened | it gives light;  
it gives understanding | to the simple.
- 131**I open my | mouth and pant  
because I long for | your commandments.
- 132**Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,  
as you always do to those who | love your name. R
- 133**Order my footsteps | in your word;  
let no iniquity have dominion | over me.
- 134**Rescue me from those | who oppress me,  
and I will keep | your commandments.
- 135**Let your face shine up- | on your servant  
and teach | me your statutes.
- 136**My eyes shed | streams of tears,  
because people do not | keep your teaching. R

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## **A READING FROM ROMANS**

<sup>26</sup>The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

<sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

<sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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