

Sunday, September 3, 2023
Lectionary 22, Year A, 14th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalm Psalm 26:1-8
Second Reading Romans 12:9-21

A READING FROM JEREMIAH

¹⁵O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart;
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,

not you who will turn to them.
²⁰And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the LORD.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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 26th PSALM IN UNISON

**¹Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived | with
integrity;**

I have trusted in the LORD and | have not faltered.

**²Test me, O | LORD, and try me;
examine my heart | and my mind.**

**³For your steadfast love is be- | fore my eyes;
I have walked faithful- | ly with you.**

**⁴I have not sat | with the worthless,
nor do I consort with | the deceitful. R**

**⁵I have hated the company of | evildoers;
I will not sit down | with the wicked.**

**⁶I will wash my hands in inno- | cence, O LORD,
that I may go in procession | round your altar,**

**⁷singing aloud a song | of thanksgiving
and recounting all your won- | derful deeds.**

**⁸LORD, I love the house in | which you dwell
and the place where your glo- | ry abides. R**

A READING FROM ROMANS

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD

Sunday, September 10, 2023
Lectionary 23, Year A, 15th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading Ezekiel 33:7-11
Psalm Psalm 119:33-40
Second Reading Romans 13:8-14

A READING FROM EZEKIEL

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of 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 119th PSALM IN UNISON

**³³Teach me, O LORD, the way ^l of your statutes,
and I shall keep it ^l to the end.**

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching;**

I shall keep it with | all my heart.

³⁵**Lead me in the path of | your commandments, for that is | my desire.**

³⁶**Incline my heart to | your decrees and not to | unjust gain. R**

³⁷**Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood; give me life | in your way.**

³⁸**Fulfill your promise | to your servant, which is for | those who fear you.**

³⁹**Turn away the reproach | that I dread, because your judg- | ments are good.**

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for | your commandments; by your righteousness en- | liven me. R**

A READING FROM ROMANS

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD

Sunday, September 17, 2023
Lectionary 24, Year A, 16th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13
Second Reading Romans 14:1-12

A READING FROM GENESIS

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to 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 103rd PSALM IN UNISON

[¹Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.
²Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and forget not | all God's benefits—
³who forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your diseases;
⁴who redeems your life | from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy; R
⁵who satisfies your desires | with good things
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.
⁶O LORD, you provide | vindication
and justice for all who | are oppressed.
⁷You made known your | ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.
] ⁸LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love; R
⁹you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.
¹⁰You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.
¹¹For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.
¹²As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.
¹³As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you,
O LORD. R

A READING FROM ROMANS

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before

their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD

Sunday, September 24, 2023
Lectionary 25, Year A, 17th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading Jonah 3:10--4:11
Psalm Psalm 145:1-8
Second Reading Philippians 1:21-30

A READING FROM JONAH

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned

about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

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

- ¹I will exalt you, my | God and king,
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.**
- ²Every day | will I bless you
and praise your name forev- | er and ever.**
- ³Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised!
There is no end | to your greatness.**
- ⁴One generation shall praise your works | to another
and shall de- | clare your power. R**
- ⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty
and all your | marvelous works.**
- ⁶They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,
and I will re- | count your greatness.**
- ⁷They shall publish the remembrance of | your great
goodness;
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.**
- ⁸The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love. R**

A READING FROM PHILIPPIANS

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD