

August 1st, 2010 Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

Introduction to the Day

Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.

After a moment of silent meditation to prepare ourselves for worship, we will begin the liturgy.

Prayers of the People

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Lead your church, O God, to speak wisdom that it may offer genuine meaning in a world of vanities. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Sustain, O God, all who labor and toil in field, factory, home, or office, that their work may have purpose. Give hope to the unemployed, that they can soon offer their talents in fulfilling work. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Inspire, O God, the leaders of all nations to seek justice for the inhabitants of the world. Give a spirit of generosity to those who are wealthy, enabling them to share the abundance of their riches with the poor. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Provide peace, O God, to those whose days are filled with pain: the poor, the hungry, the ill, that they may not give up their hearts to despair. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Encourage this congregation, O God, to set our minds on things that are above, so we may be rich toward God and loving toward others. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks, O God, for those who have left us a legacy of faith, wisdom, and knowledge. Keep us steadfast in that faith until we join them in glory. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

Lector: Please read the introduction, then the citation (i.e. “The First Reading is from the.... chapter of ...” - then read the text.)

First Reading – *Hosea compares God's love for Israel to the love parents have for their children. Whether teaching toddlers to walk or dealing with a child's rebellion, good parents continue to love their children as they try to lead them to life. In the same way, God's love will not let Israel go.*

Hosea 11:1–11

When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.
The more I called them,
the more they went from me;
they kept sacrificing to the Baals,
and offering incense to idols.
Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk,
I took them up in my arms;
but they did not know that I healed them.
I led them with cords of human kindness,
with bands of love.
I was to them like those
who lift infants to their cheeks.
I bent down to them and fed them.
They shall return to the land of Egypt,
and Assyria shall be their king,
because they have refused to return to me.
The sword rages in their cities,
it consumes their oracle-priests,
and devours because of their schemes.
My people are bent on turning away from me.
To the Most High they call,
but he does not raise them up at all.

How can I give you up, Ephraim?
How can I hand you over, O Israel?
How can I make you like Admah?
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?
My heart recoils within me;
my compassion grows warm and tender.
I will not execute my fierce anger;
I will not again destroy Ephraim;
for I am God and no mortal,
the Holy One in your midst,
and I will not come in wrath.
They shall go after the LORD,
who roars like a lion;
when he roars,
his children shall come trembling from the west.
They shall come trembling like birds from Egypt,
and like doves from the land of Assyria;
and I will return them to their homes, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 107:1–9, 43

Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.

**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**
gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from
the south.

**Some wandered in desert wastes;
they found no path to a city where they might dwell.**

They were hungry and thirsty;
their spirits languished within them.

**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD,
and you delivered them from their distress.**

You led them on a straight path
to go to a city where they might dwell.

**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast
love and your wonderful works for all people.**

For you satisfy the thirsty soul
and fill the hungry with good things.

**Whoever is wise will ponder these things,
and consider well the LORD's steadfast love.**

Second Reading – *Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes in order to put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.*

Colossians 3:1–11

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things — anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* **Gospel Reading** - *In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God.*

Luke 12:13–21

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.