

August 22nd, 2010 Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Introduction to the Day

Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.

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.

Continue to guide your church, so that it may be a light that rises in the darkness of this world. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Cause abundant water to spring up in parched places, so that they may be like lush gardens. Bless those who work in water treatment plants and all who work to provide safe and clean water for all to use. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Repair the breaches among peoples, rebuild nations, and bring justice for all who are oppressed. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Satisfy the needs of the afflicted, and heal those who have diseases or are sick, that their spirits may be renewed like an eagle's. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Inspire this assembly to find delight in honoring your interests and pursuing your affairs in our daily lives, that we may be instruments of healing in the lives of others. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Receive our thanks for all the saints who now reside in the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. Keep us unshaken in our faith until we too join them in that place of eternal refreshment. 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 – *The call of the prophet Jeremiah does not depend either on Jeremiah's abilities or his age. God will give him the words to speak. Even before Jeremiah was born, God appointed him a prophet to the nations, to minister in the difficult years before the Babylonian exile.*

Jeremiah 1:4–10

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,
"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."
Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy."
But the LORD said to me,
"Do not say, 'I am only a boy';
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.
Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD."
Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,
"Now I have put my words in your mouth.
See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 71:1–6

In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame.

**In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;
incline your ear to me and save me.**

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe;
you are my crag and my stronghold.

**Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**

For you are my hope, O Lord GOD,
my confidence since I was young.

**I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's
womb you have been my strength; my praise shall be always of
you.**

Second Reading – *Using images of Moses from the Old Testament, the writer presents a striking vision of the new covenant of God made possible in Christ. There is no longer fear; only awe in the new promise in Christ into which we are invited.*

Hebrews 12:18–29

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken — that is, created things — so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*** Gospel Reading** - *Jesus heals a woman on the sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life. When challenged by a narrow reading of the sabbath command, Jesus responds by expanding "sabbath work" to include setting people free from bondage.*

Luke 13:10–17

Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.