

August 8th, 2010 Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

Introduction to the Day

Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part today in assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

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.

For all whose vocation is to preach the gospel, that they may grow in the art of proclaiming the gospel with clarity and conviction. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For all who look toward heaven and count the stars: astronomers, astronauts, air traffic controllers, and meteorologists, that they may use their talents to improve life on earth. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For world leaders, that they may recognize war as a vain hope for peace and work toward justice for all peoples. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the poor, the lonely, the fearful, and the sick, that they may experience your good pleasure and freedom from want. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For this assembly, that we may place our hearts and trust in the true treasure of righteousness given through Christ, claiming our inheritance as children of God, as did Sarah and Abraham. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With thanksgiving for those before us who lived by faith, we pray that you will keep us steadfast in you 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 – *Isaiah announces God's displeasure with the offerings and sacrifices of a people who are without compassion. He urges them instead to do justice and defend the oppressed. Indeed, if they repent, the Lord promises, they will be made as clean as new-fallen snow.*

Isaiah 1:1, 10–20

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

Hear the word of the LORD,
you rulers of Sodom!
Listen to the teaching of our God,
you people of Gomorrah!
What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?
says the LORD;
I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams
and the fat of fed beasts;
I do not delight in the blood of bulls,
or of lambs, or of goats.
When you come to appear before me,
who asked this from your hand?
Trample my courts no more;
bringing offerings is futile;
incense is an abomination to me.
New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation —
I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.
Your new moons and your appointed festivals
my soul hates;
they have become a burden to me,
I am weary of bearing them.
When you stretch out your hands,
I will hide my eyes from you;
even though you make many prayers,

I will not listen;
your hands are full of blood.
Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;
remove the evil of your doings
from before my eyes;
cease to do evil,
learn to do good;
seek justice,
rescue the oppressed,
defend the orphan,
plead for the widow.
Come now, let us argue it out,
says the LORD:
though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be like snow;
though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool.
If you are willing and obedient,
you shall eat the good of the land;
but if you refuse and rebel,
you shall be devoured by the sword;
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 50:1–8, 22–23

The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken;
calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,
God shines forth in glory.**

Our God will come and will not keep silence;
with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging
storm.

**God calls the heavens and the earth from above
to witness the judgment of the people.**

"Gather before me my loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with
sacrifice."

**The heavens declare the rightness of God's cause,
for it is God who is judge.**

"Listen, my people, and I will speak: Israel, I will bear witness
against you; for I am God, your God.

**I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices;
your burnt offerings are always before me.**

Consider this well, you who forget God,
lest I tear you apart and there be none to deliver you.

Whoever offers me a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors me;

I will show the salvation of God to those who go the right way."

Second Reading – *Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.*

Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old — and Sarah herself was barren — because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* **Gospel Reading** - *Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.*

Luke 12:32–40

Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as

soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.