

GOSPEL : Luke 13:22-30

JESUS WENT on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, “Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’ In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”



11 Pentecost

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 16

COLLECT

GRANT, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING : Isaiah 28:14-22

HEAR THE WORD of the LORD, you scoffers, who rule this people in Jerusalem! Because you have said, “We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol we have an agreement, when the overwhelming whip passes through it will not come to us, for we have made lies our refuge, and in falsehood we have taken shelter;” therefore thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: ‘Whoever believes will not be in haste.’ And I will make justice the line, and righteousness the plumb line; and hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, and waters will overwhelm the shelter.” Then your covenant with death will be annulled, and your agreement with Sheol will not stand; when the overwhelming scourge passes through, you will be beaten down by it. As often as it passes through it will take you; for morning by morning it will pass through, by day and by night; and it will be sheer terror to understand the message. For the bed is too short to stretch oneself on, and the covering too narrow to wrap oneself in. For the LORD will rise up as on Mount Perazim; as in the Valley of Gibeon he will be roused; to do his deed—strange is his deed! and to work his work—alien is his work! Now therefore do not scoff, lest your bonds be made strong; for I have heard a decree of destruction from the Lord GOD of hosts against the whole land.

Refrain

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Psalm 46

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| 1 | God is our refuge and strength, * a very present help in trouble. | 7 | The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; * God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away. |
| 2 | Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, * and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea; | 8 | The LORD of hosts is with us; * the God of Jacob is our stronghold. |
| 3 | Though its waters rage and foam, * and though the mountains tremble at its tumult. | 9 | Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, * what awesome things he has done on earth. |
| 4 | The LORD of hosts is with us; * the God of Jacob is our stronghold. | 10 | It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; * he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire. |
| 5 | There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, * the holy habitation of the Most High. | 11 | “Be still, then, and know that I am God; * I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.” |
| 6 | God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown; * God shall help her at the break of day. | 12 | The LORD of hosts is with us; * the God of Jacob is our stronghold. |

SECOND READING : Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-29

YOU HAVE NOT COME to what may 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 no further messages be spoken to them. 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 him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him 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 heavens.” This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.