

## Readings for Sunday, July 7, 2024

Worship Leader: Pastor Zsófi

*Today's first reading is from the second chapter of Ezekiel, verses one through five. In 597 BCE, the priest Ezekiel was removed into exile in Babylon. While there, he received a vision of God appearing majestically on a chariot throne. Today's reading recounts God's commissioning of Ezekiel during this vision. The prophet is to speak God's word to a people unwilling to hear.*

<sup>1</sup>[A voice] said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.<sup>2</sup>And when the voice spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard these words: <sup>3</sup>Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. <sup>4</sup>The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says Sovereign God." <sup>5</sup>Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

L: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Today's psalm is Psalm one twenty three. We will read the verses responsively by whole verse.**

<sup>1</sup>To you I lift <sup>1</sup> up my eyes,  
to you enthroned <sup>1</sup> in the heavens.

<sup>2</sup>**As the eyes of servants look  
to the hand of their masters,  
and the eyes of a maid to the hand <sup>1</sup>  
of her mistress, so our eyes look to you, O LORD our God, until you show <sup>1</sup> us  
your mercy.**

<sup>3</sup>Have mercy upon us, O <sup>1</sup> LORD, have mercy,  
for we have had more than enough <sup>1</sup> of contempt,

<sup>4</sup>**too much of the scorn of the in- <sup>1</sup> dolent rich,  
and of the derision <sup>1</sup> of the proud.**

***The second reading this Sunday is from the twelfth chapter of Second Corinthians, verses two through ten where we read Christians do not boast of their own accomplishments. Rather, Christian boasting focuses attention on how the power of Christ is present in our lives, especially in times of weakness and vulnerability. No matter what our circumstances in life, Christ's grace is sufficient for us.***

<sup>2</sup>I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. <sup>3</sup>And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—<sup>4</sup>was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. <sup>5</sup>On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup>But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, <sup>7</sup>even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. <sup>8</sup>Three times I appealed to God about this, that it would leave me, <sup>9</sup>but God said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. <sup>10</sup>Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

L: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel: Mark 6:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus] came to his hometown, followed by the disciples. <sup>2</sup>On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and the many listeners were astonished and said, “Where did he get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted and these miracles that are being performed by his hands? <sup>3</sup>Isn’t this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not his sisters here with us?” They found these things to be stumbling blocks.

<sup>4</sup>Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honour, except in their hometowns, and among their own relatives, and in their own households.” <sup>5</sup>And he could work no miracles there, apart from laying his hands upon a few sick people and healing them; <sup>6</sup>their lack of faith astounded him. He made the rounds of the neighbouring villages instead, and spent the time teaching.

<sup>7</sup>Then Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs, giving them authority over unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup>He instructed them that they should take nothing for their journey except a mere staff - no bread, no bag, no money in their belts. <sup>9</sup>They were to wear sandals, but he added, "Do not take a spare tunic."

<sup>10</sup>And Jesus said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave town. <sup>11</sup>Any place that does not receive you or listen to you, as you leave it, shake off the dust from the soles of your feet as a testimony against them."

<sup>12</sup>And so they set off, proclaiming repentance as they went. <sup>13</sup>They cast out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.