

FIRST READING: *Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29*

L: *Today's first reading discusses what constitutes legitimate need and legitimate leadership. God provides manna in the wilderness, yet the people crave meat. What is truly needful? God bestows the spirit on seventy elders, yet two men not designated as leaders prophesy in the power of God's spirit. What constitutes real leadership?*

⁴The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! ⁵We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; ⁶but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

¹⁰Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the LORD became very angry, and Moses was displeased. ¹¹So Moses said to the LORD, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? ¹²Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors'? ¹³Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' ¹⁴I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. ¹⁵If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery."

¹⁶So the LORD said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you."

²⁴So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. ²⁵Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

²⁶Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." ²⁸And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" ²⁹But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!"

L: Word of God, word of life. C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: *Psalm 19:7-14*

L: *Our Psalm this morning will be chanted responsively by whole verse with the congregation and those online responding in the bold white text. Our Cantor will begin:*

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re-^lvives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom^l to
the simple.

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and re-^ljoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light^l
to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and en-^ldures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous^l
altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than^l much
fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey^l in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your ser-^lvant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is^l great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one's^l own offenses?
Cleanse me from my^l secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let
them not get dominion^l over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a^l great
offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable^l in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and^l my redeemer.**

SECOND READING: James 5:13-20

L: Our Second reading comes from the fifth chapter of James where we read that the marks of the Christian community include praying for those who are sick and in need, celebrating with those in good health, restoring those who have strayed, confessing sins to one another, and offering forgiveness to each other.

¹³Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

¹⁹My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, ²⁰you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

L: Word of God, word of life. C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: GOD IS STILL SPEAKING (REFRAIN)

GOSPEL: Mark 9:38-50

P: The holy gospel according to Mark.

C: Glory to you, O God.

³⁸John said to [Jesus], "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." ³⁹But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

⁴²"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for

you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

⁴⁹“For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

P: The gospel of Christ. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Prayers of the People

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God’s good creation, and all who are in need. Each petition will end with the words “Creator God,” and you are invited to respond “May we hope and act with Creation.”

We pray for the people of God in all places. Shape our witness to the good news of Jesus that we joyfully share your transforming love with all whom we encounter. Creator God, **May we hope and act with Creation.**

We pray for the healing of the earth. Renew oceans and seas, marshes and estuaries. Uphold the work of conservationists, oceanographers, and all who care for fragile ecosystems and habitats. Creator God, **May we hope and act with Creation.**

We pray for peace and cooperation among local and global communities. Bless the efforts of community organizers, international aid workers, and all those who work for justice and peace around the world. Creator God, **May we hope and act with Creation.**

We pray for all who are in any need. To all who grieve, bring consolation; to all who are weary or lonely, bring solace. We pray especially for those who have asked us for prayer:

Geraldine, José & Gloria, Shannon, Terri, Martha, Tim, Terry, Chris, Eleanor, Dave & Bea, David & June, Betty & George, Sylvia, Harold, and Christina...

as well as those we carry in the silence of our hearts or name aloud now....

...by your grace, make your presence known among all who call to you for healing. Creator God, **May we hope and act with Creation.**

We pray for caregivers: doctors and nurses, home health aides and counselors, and those who care for loved ones. Sustain them in their work and help us to build a health care system that supports all. Creator God, **May we hope and act with Creation.**

Great and Heavenly Spirit, God of compassion, healing and comfort,

We lift up in prayer the sacred lives of the children, some now known to us, all known to you, who died in residential schools. We lift up in prayer the sacred lives of the children who went missing from these schools and whose fates are unknown to those who held them most dear. We grieve the loss of so many thousands of these little ones, and we grieve especially their loss so far away from home. We grieve the loss of youth with so much potential. These were children of this place, children of our land. The loss of their giftedness is our collective loss. We lament how long their families have had to live with unanswered questions. Hear us as we pray –

- for those who were not informed of their children's deaths at all, or on a timely basis;
- for those who were not told of where their daughters and sons had been buried;
- for those who have long hoped that a child who went missing somehow survived and had a good life—even as they may have also feared the worst.

We lament our complicity in the loss of these children. As members of your church, we seek your help as we look to redress the many ways in which our church failed these Indigenous children, their families, and their communities. We pray that your reconciling love will teach us how to create true bonds of community and understanding as Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples today.

We lift up with gratitude the efforts of all those who are seeking to honour the lives of the children who died, as well as the children whose fates are unknown, through ongoing research and acts of remembrance.

We ask for your continued guidance of them as they work to uncover the stories of the lost. We understand how precious this information is, and how vital it is to the healing of so many families and communities.

Bless those who are preparing to honour the children with sacred ceremonies and those who work to protect burial sites, in keeping with the traditions of Indigenous peoples across this land.

We pray for the families of these children and for all who loved them. Envelop them in the warmth of your infinite care and give them peace. Inspire all of us with energy, wisdom, and commitment to the loving pursuit of the truth which will heal all of us in our brokenness and lead to reconciliation with our neighbours across this land. Creator God, **May we hope and act with Creation.**

We give thanks for the saints who now rest in your eternal presence. In thanksgiving for their lives of faithful service and witness, we commend them to your loving care. Creator God, **May we hope and act with Creation.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love to provide whatever it is that our neighbours and we need; through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**