

READINGS AND PRAYERS FOR OCTOBER 27, 2024

FIRST READING: *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

L: *In today's first reading the renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.*

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord.

³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

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

PSALM: *Psalm 46*

L: *Our Psalm this morning will be spoken responsively by whole verse with the congregation and those online speaking the bold text, and a sung refrain from All Creation Sings, number 1035 led by our cantor.*

ACS# 1035 "THOUGH THE EARTH SHALL CHANGE"

Sung (Leader) Though the earth shall change...

(All) Though the earth shall change...

¹ God is our ref-^luge and strength,
a very present^l help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the^l earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths^l of the sea;**

³ though its waters^l rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble^l with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the cit-^ly of God,
the holy habitation of^l the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall^l not be shaken;
God shall help it at the^l break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the^l kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth^l melts away. REFRAIN**

(All) Though the earth shall change...

⁷ The LORD of^l hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob^l is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works^l of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought up-^l on the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in ^l all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns
the ^l shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that ^l I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted ^l in the
earth.”**

¹¹ The LORD of ^l hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob ^l is our stronghold. **REFRAIN**

(All) *Though the earth shall change.....*

SECOND READING: *Romans 3:19-28*

L: *In our second reading Paul’s words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ’s death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.*

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

ELW# 509 “GOD’S WORD IS OUR GREAT HERITAGE”

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

P: The holy gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O God.

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.
³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

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

Prayers of the People

Challenged by God’s Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation. Each petition will end with the words “Merciful God,” and you are invited to respond “receive our prayer.”

Lord of all, we give thanks for the whole church throughout the world. Open wide the paths toward unity between denominations so that all followers of Christ may join in shared worship and mission. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, as the dying leaves display their beauty, we are reminded that nature’s cycle of life includes and requires both life and death. Instill in your people a mission of preservation and appreciation for trees, animals, and waterways threatened by climate collapse. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Gracious God, in the spirit of reformation we pray for all who cry out for relief from systemic oppression. May the hearts of those who occupy seats of power be reformed so that peace becomes the center of our life together. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Comforting God, be with all who are sick, suffering, or grieving in our own community and beyond. We pray especially for those who have asked us for prayer:

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

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

Surround them with the promise of your love, comfort, and grace that never ends. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Divine Guide, continue to challenge this community to be ever reforming in our ministries and outreach efforts. Inspire creative ideas among us so that the communal, grace-filled word of God remains at the heart of our ministry. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, in Christ’s resurrection you ensure that though life be wrenched away, death cannot win the day. May the truth of your saving grace through faith sustain our hope for life in you. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

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.**