

Scriptures

FIRST READING ISAIAH 51:1-6

- ¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the Lord.
Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.
- ² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.
- ³ For the Lord will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the Lord;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.
- ⁴ Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.
- ⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.
- ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

L: May the church hear what the Spirit is saying.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 138

L: This morning we read from Psalm 85. It will be spoken responsively with the congregation speaking the bolded text.

¹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with ^l my whole heart;
before the gods I will ^l sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your
steadfast ^l love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word a- ^l bove all things.**

³ When I called, you ^l answered me;
you increased my ^l strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise ^l you, O Lord,
when they have heard the words ^l of your mouth.**

⁵ They will sing of the ways ^l of the Lord,
that great is the glory ^l of the Lord.

⁶ **The Lord is high, yet cares ^l for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty ^l from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you ^l keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right ^l hand shall save
me.

⁸ **You will make good your pur- ^l pose for me;
O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works ^l of your hands.**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 12:1-8

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

L: May the church hear what the Spirit is saying.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation "Alleluia"

GOSPEL

P: The holy gospel according to **MATTHEW 16:13-20**

C: **Glory to you, O God.**

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give

you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

P: The Gospel of Christ.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayers of the People

L: With bold trust in God’s unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation saying *Merciful God* and responding *hear our prayer*.

A brief silence.

God, our rock, you are the foundation on which the church is built. Strengthen and encourage your faithful people everywhere they gather, that they boldly proclaim your word of life to all the world. Merciful God, **hear our prayer**.

You spoke and all creation came into being. Field and forest, wetland and wilderness—all reveal your glory. Sustain and nourish your creation in our context and beyond. Teach us to be wise stewards of all you have made. Merciful God, **hear our prayer**.

You bring deliverance to nations and peoples. Come to the aid of nations experiencing war, conflict, disease, famine, and disaster. Guide the work of relief agencies and peacemaking organizations. Merciful God, **hear our prayer**.

You regard the lowly and hear us when we cry out to you. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, housing insecurity, incarceration, and mental illness, that they know they are not alone. Hear our prayers for all in need this day. We pray especially for Jose, Ann, Joan, Terri, Martha, Tim, Roxie, Alfred, Terry, Eleanor, Abdulaziz, Meryem, Aysa, Hasan, Alma, Sylvia,

George, Keith, Harold, Byron, the family and friends of Orville and all those we carry in our hearts and minds this day, silently or named aloud at this time... (brief pause). Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

You draw together people with differing gifts. Lift up the many and varied gifts and talents of this congregation and strengthen the bonds of fellowship that all may be united as the body of Christ. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**