

Scriptures

FIRST READING JEREMIAH 15:15-21

- ¹⁵ O Lord, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.
- ¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O Lord, God of hosts.
- ¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.
- ¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.
- ¹⁹ Therefore thus says the Lord:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.
- ²⁰ And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,

for I am with you

to save you and deliver you,
says the Lord.

²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 26:1-8

L: This morning we read an excerpt from Psalm 26.

It will be chanted responsively with the congregation speaking the bolded text.

¹ Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived **I** with integrity;
I have trusted in the Lord and **I** have not faltered.

² **Test me, O I Lord, and try me;**
examine my heart I and my mind.

³ For your steadfast love is be- **I** fore my eyes;
I have walked faithful- **I** ly with you.

⁴ **I have not sat I with the worthless,**
nor do I consort with I the deceitful.

⁵ I have hated the company of **I** evildoers;
I will not sit down **I** with the wicked.

⁶ **I will wash my hands in inno- I cence, O Lord,**
that I may go in procession I round your altar,

⁷ singing aloud a song **I** of thanksgiving
and recounting all your won- **I** derful deeds.

⁸ **Lord, I love the house in I which you dwell**
and the place where your glo- I ry abides.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 12:9-21

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 16:21-28

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

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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.

For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of your creation, that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive. Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires, storms, and other disasters. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence and injustice. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit. We pray especially for Jose, Ann, Joan, Terri, Martha, Tim, Roxie, Alfred, Terry, Eleanor, Abdulaziz, Meryem, Aysa, Hasan, Alma, Sylvia, George, Harold, Byron, 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.**

August 30, 2026

For the congregation gathered here to serve you, that they remain strong in faith and united in purpose. For those who visit, that they may feel truly welcomed. Guide our committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love.

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.**