

Readings + 6th Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 14 A + July 9, 2023

Prayer of the Day

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

First Reading Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war-horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my
covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the
waterless pit.
¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Psalmody Psalm 145:8-14

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
**LORD, you are good to all, and your
compassion is over all your works.**
All your works shall praise you, O LORD, and
your faithful ones shall bless you.
**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,**
that all people may know of your power and the
glorious splendor of your kingdom.
**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;
your dominion endures throughout all ages.**
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and
loving in all your works.

**The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts
up those who are bowed down.**

Second Reading Romans 7:15-25a

Paul writes: ¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Holy Gospel Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Matthew and Luke (chs. 7 and 10) have largely the same text for verses 16-27, with some minor variants. But only Matthew gives us verses 28-30, "Come to me, all you that are weary . . ."

Jesus spoke to the crowd, saying: ¹⁶ "But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷ 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' ¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the

intelligent and have revealed them to infants;

²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to

reveal him. ²⁸ Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”