

Proper 21

Morning Prayer Readings for September 28th – October 2nd

**Morning Prayer Readings
Thursday September 24, 2020**

Please turn to **page 738**. We'll say **Psalms 105: 1-22** together

*¹ Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.*

*² Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.*

*³ Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.*

*⁴ Search for the LORD and his strength; *
continually seek his face.*

*⁵ Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,*

*⁶ O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.*

*⁷ He is the LORD our God; *
his judgments prevail in all the world.*

*⁸ He has always been mindful of his covenant, *
the promise he made for a thousand generations:*

*⁹ The covenant he made with Abraham, *
the oath that he swore to Isaac,*

- 10 Which he established as a statute for Jacob, *
an everlasting covenant for Israel,*
- 11 Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan *
to be your allotted inheritance."*
- 12 When they were few in number, *
of little account, and sojourners in the land,*
- 13 Wandering from nation to nation *
and from one kingdom to another,*
- 14 He let no one oppress them *
and rebuked kings for their sake,*
- 15 Saying, "Do not touch my anointed *
and do my prophets no harm."*
- 16 Then he called for a famine in the land *
and destroyed the supply of bread.*
- 17 He sent a man before them, *
Joseph, who was sold as a slave.*
- 18 They bruised his feet in fetters; *
his neck they put in an iron collar.*
- 19 Until his prediction came to pass, *
the word of the LORD tested him.*
- 20 The king sent and released him; *
the ruler of the peoples set him free.*

*²¹ He set him as a master over his household, *
as a ruler over all his possessions,*

*²² To instruct his princes according to his will *
and to teach his elders wisdom.*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen*

The first lesson is from **Hosea 5:8-6:6**

^{5:8} Blow the horn in Gibeah,
the trumpet in Ramah.

Sound the alarm at Beth-aven;
look behind you, Benjamin!

⁹ Ephraim shall become a desolation
on the day of punishment;
among the tribes of Israel
I declare what is sure.

¹⁰ The princes of Judah have become
like those who remove the landmark;
on them I will pour out
my wrath like water.

¹¹ Ephraim is oppressed, crushed in judgement,
because he was determined to go after vanity.

¹² Therefore I am like maggots to Ephraim,
and like rottenness to the house of Judah.

¹³ When Ephraim saw his sickness,
and Judah his wound,

then Ephraim went to Assyria,
and sent to the great king.

But he is not able to cure you
or heal your wound.

- ¹⁴ For I will be like a lion to Ephraim,
and like a young lion to the house of Judah.
I myself will tear and go away;
I will carry off, and no one shall rescue.
- ¹⁵ I will return again to my place
until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face.
In their distress they will beg my favour:
- ^{6:1} ‘Come, let us return to the Lord;
for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us;
he has struck down, and he will bind us up.
- ² After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.
- ³ Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord;
his appearing is as sure as the dawn;
he will come to us like the showers,
like the spring rains that water the earth.’
- ⁴ What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?
What shall I do with you, O Judah?
Your love is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
- ⁵ Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets,
I have killed them by the words of my mouth,
and my judgement goes forth as the light.
- ⁶ For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather than burnt-offerings.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

The second lesson is from **Acts 21:27-36**

^{21:27} When the seven days were almost completed, the Jews from Asia, who had seen him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd. They seized him, ²⁸shouting, ‘Fellow-Israelites, help! This is the man who is teaching everyone everywhere against our people, our law, and this place; more than that, he has actually brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.’ ²⁹For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple. ³⁰Then all the city was aroused, and the people rushed together. They seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple, and immediately the doors were shut. ³¹While they were trying to kill him, word came to the tribune of the cohort that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. ³²Immediately he took soldiers and centurions and ran down to them. When they saw the tribune and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. ³³Then the tribune came, arrested him, and ordered him to be bound with two chains; he inquired who he was and what he had done. ³⁴Some in the crowd shouted one thing, some another; and as he could not learn the facts because of the uproar, he ordered him to be brought into the barracks. ³⁵When Paul came to the steps, the violence of the mob was so great that he had to be carried by the soldiers. ³⁶The crowd that followed kept shouting, ‘Away with him!’

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The third lesson is from **Luke 6:1-11**

^{6:1} One sabbath while Jesus was going through the cornfields, his disciples plucked some heads of grain, rubbed them in their hands, and ate them. ²But some of the Pharisees said, ‘Why are you doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?’ ³Jesus answered, ‘Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴He entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and gave some to his companions?’ ⁵Then he said to them, ‘The Son of Man is lord of the sabbath.’

⁶ On another sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught, and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. ⁷The scribes and the Pharisees watched him to see whether he would cure on the sabbath, so that they might find an accusation against him. ⁸Even though he knew what they were thinking, he said to the man who had the withered hand, ‘Come and stand here.’ He got up and stood there. ⁹Then Jesus said to them, ‘I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to destroy it?’ ¹⁰After looking around at all of them, he said to him, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ He did so, and his hand was restored. ¹¹But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

The Collect for Proper 21

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

Morning Prayer Readings
Friday September 25, 2020

Please turn to **page 731**. We'll say **Psalm 102** together

- ¹ LORD, hear my prayer, and let my cry come before you; *
hide not your face from me in the day of my trouble.*
- ² Incline your ear to me; *
when I call, make haste to answer me,*
- ³ For my days drift away like smoke, *
and my bones are hot as burning coals.*
- ⁴ My heart is smitten like grass and withered, *
so that I forget to eat my bread.*
- ⁵ Because of the voice of my groaning *
I am but skin and bones.*
- ⁶ I have become like a vulture in the wilderness, *
like an owl among the ruins.*
- ⁷ I lie awake and groan; *
I am like a sparrow, lonely on a house-top.*
- ⁸ My enemies revile me all day long, *
and those who scoff at me have taken an oath against me.*
- ⁹ For I have eaten ashes for bread *
and mingled my drink with weeping.*
- ¹⁰ Because of your indignation and wrath *
you have lifted me up and thrown me away.*

- ¹¹ My days pass away like a shadow, *
and I wither like the grass.*
- ¹² But you, O LORD, endure for ever, *
and your Name from age to age.*
- ¹³ You will arise and have compassion on Zion,
for it is time to have mercy upon her; *
indeed, the appointed time has come.*
- ¹⁴ For your servants love her very rubble, *
and are moved to pity even for her dust.*
- ¹⁵ The nations shall fear your Name, O LORD, *
and all the kings of the earth your glory.*
- ¹⁶ For the LORD will build up Zion, *
and his glory will appear.*
- ¹⁷ He will look with favor on the prayer of the homeless; *
he will not despise their plea.*
- ¹⁸ Let this be written for a future generation, *
so that a people yet unborn may praise the LORD.*
- ¹⁹ For the LORD looked down from his holy place on high; *
from the heavens he beheld the earth;*
- ²⁰ That he might hear the groan of the captive *
and set free those condemned to die;*
- ²¹ That they may declare in Zion the Name of the LORD, *
and his praise in Jerusalem;*

- ²² *When the peoples are gathered together, *
and the kingdoms also, to serve the LORD.*
- ²³ *He has brought down my strength before my time; *
he has shortened the number of my days;*
- ²⁴ *And I said, "O my God,
do not take me away in the midst of my days; *
your years endure throughout all generations.*
- ²⁵ *In the beginning, O LORD, you laid the foundations of the earth, *
and the heavens are the work of your hands;*
- ²⁶ *They shall perish, but you will endure;
they all shall wear out like a garment; *
as clothing you will change them,
and they shall be changed;*
- ²⁷ *But you are always the same, *
and your years will never end.*
- ²⁸ *The children of your servants shall continue, *
and their offspring shall stand fast in your sight."*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen*

The first lesson is from **Hosea 10:1-15**

^{1:1} Israel is a luxuriant vine
that yields its fruit.

The more his fruit increased
the more altars he built;
as his country improved,
he improved his pillars.

² Their heart is false;
now they must bear their guilt.

The Lord will break down their altars,
and destroy their pillars.

³ For now they will say:
‘We have no king,
for we do not fear the Lord,
and a king—what could he do for us?’

⁴ They utter mere words;
with empty oaths they make covenants;
so litigation springs up like poisonous weeds
in the furrows of the field.

⁵ The inhabitants of Samaria tremble
for the calf of Beth-aven.

Its people shall mourn for it,
and its idolatrous priests shall wail over it,
over its glory that has departed from it.

⁶ The thing itself shall be carried to Assyria
as tribute to the great king.

Ephraim shall be put to shame,
and Israel shall be ashamed of his idol.

⁷ Samaria’s king shall perish
like a splinter on the face of the waters.

⁸ The high places of Aven, the sin of Israel,
shall be destroyed.

Thorn and thistle shall grow up
on their altars.

They shall say to the mountains, Cover us,
and to the hills, Fall on us.

⁹ Since the days of Gibeah you have sinned, O Israel;
there they have continued.

Shall not war overtake them in Gibeah?

¹⁰ I will come against the wayward people to punish them;
and nations shall be gathered against them
when they are punished for their double iniquity.

¹¹ Ephraim was a trained heifer
that loved to thresh,
and I spared her fair neck;
but I will make Ephraim break the ground;
Judah must plough;
Jacob must harrow for himself.

¹² Sow for yourselves righteousness;
reap steadfast love;
break up your fallow ground;
for it is time to seek the Lord,
that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.

¹³ You have ploughed wickedness,
you have reaped injustice,
you have eaten the fruit of lies.

Because you have trusted in your power
and in the multitude of your warriors,

¹⁴ therefore the tumult of war shall rise against your people,
and all your fortresses shall be destroyed,
as Shalman destroyed Beth-arbel on the day of battle
when mothers were dashed in pieces with their children.

¹⁵ Thus it shall be done to you, O Bethel,
because of your great wickedness.

At dawn the king of Israel
shall be utterly cut off.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

The second lesson is from **Acts 21:37-22:16**

^{19:21} Just as Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he said to the tribune, ‘May I say something to you?’ The tribune replied, ‘Do you know Greek?’ ³⁸Then you are not the Egyptian who recently stirred up a revolt and led the four thousand assassins out into the wilderness?’ ³⁹Paul replied, ‘I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of an important city; I beg you, let me speak to the people.’ ⁴⁰When he had given him permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned to the people for silence; and when there was a great hush, he addressed them in the Hebrew language, saying:

^{22:1} ‘Brothers and fathers, listen to the defence that I now make before you.’

² When they heard him addressing them in Hebrew, they became even more quiet. Then he said:

³ ‘I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, educated strictly according to our ancestral law, being zealous for God, just as all of you are today. ⁴I persecuted this Way up to the point of death by binding both men and women and putting them in prison, ⁵as the high priest and the whole council of elders can testify about me. From them I also received letters to the brothers in Damascus, and I went there in order to bind those who were there and to bring them back to Jerusalem for punishment.

⁶ ‘While I was on my way and approaching Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone about me. ⁷I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” ⁸I answered, “Who are you, Lord?” Then he said to me, “I am Jesus of Nazareth whom you are persecuting.” ⁹Now those who were with me saw the light but did not hear the voice of the one who was speaking to me. ¹⁰I asked, “What am I to do, Lord?” The Lord said to me, “Get up and go to Damascus; there you will be told everything that has been assigned to you to do.” ¹¹Since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, those who were with me took my hand and led me to Damascus.

¹² ‘A certain Ananias, who was a devout man according to the law and well spoken of by all the Jews living there, ¹³came to me; and standing beside me, he said, “Brother Saul, regain your sight!” In that very hour I regained my sight and saw him. ¹⁴Then he said, “The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear his own voice; ¹⁵for you will be his witness to all the world of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶And now why do you delay? Get up, be baptized, and have your sins washed away, calling on his name.”

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The third lesson is from **Luke 6:12-26**

^{6:12} Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. ¹³And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: ¹⁴Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, ¹⁵and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

¹⁷ He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

‘Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ ‘Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

‘Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² ‘Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴ ‘But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ ‘Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

‘Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ ‘Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Collect for Proper 21

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. ***Amen.***