

# The Season after Pentecost

*Scripture Selections from the Evangelical Heritage Version®  
following the Lutheran Service Book 3-Year Lectionary, Year B*

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# Holy Trinity Sunday

*Lutheran Service Book 3-Year Lectionary, Year B  
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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Above him stood the seraphim. Each one had six wings. With two they covered their faces. With two they covered their feet. With two they flew. <sup>3</sup>One called to another and said,

Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of Armies!

The whole earth is full of his glory!

<sup>4</sup>The foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of the one who called, and the temple was filled with smoke.

<sup>5</sup>Then I said, “I am doomed! I am ruined, because I am a man with unclean lips, and I dwell among a people with unclean lips, and because my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of Armies!”

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphim flew to me, carrying a glowing coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. <sup>7</sup>He touched my mouth with the coal and said, “Look, this has touched your lips, so your guilt is taken away, and your sin is forgiven.”

<sup>8</sup>Then I heard the Lord’s voice, saying, “Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?”

Then I said, “Here I am. Send me!”

## Epistle / Second Reading

### Acts 2:14a, 22-36

<sup>14</sup>Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and spoke loudly and clearly to them:

<sup>22</sup>“Men of Israel, hear these words! Jesus the Nazarene was a man recommended to you by God with miracles, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know.

<sup>23</sup>This man, who was handed over by God’s set plan and foreknowledge, you killed by having lawless men nail him to a cross. <sup>24</sup>He is the one God raised up by freeing him from the agony of death, because death was not able to hold him in its grip.

<sup>25</sup>“Indeed, David says concerning him:

I saw the Lord always before me.

Because he is at my right hand,

I will not be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Therefore my heart was glad,

and my tongue rejoiced.

My flesh also will rest in hope,

<sup>27</sup>because you will not abandon my life to the grave,

nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

<sup>28</sup>You have made known to me the paths of life.

You will fill me with joy in your presence.

<sup>29</sup>“Gentlemen, brothers, I can speak confidently to you about the patriarch David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup>Since he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath that he would seat one of his descendants on his throne, <sup>31</sup>he saw what was coming and spoke about the resurrection of Christ, saying that he was neither abandoned to the grave nor did his flesh see decay.

<sup>32</sup>“This Jesus is the one God has raised up. We are all witnesses of that. <sup>33</sup>So, after he was exalted to the right hand of God and after he received the promised Holy Spirit from the Father, he poured out what you are now seeing and hearing.

<sup>34</sup>“For David did not ascend into heaven, and yet he says:

The Lord said to my Lord,  
‘Sit at my right hand,  
<sup>35</sup>until I make your enemies  
a footstool under your feet.’

<sup>36</sup>“Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

## Holy Gospel

### John 3:1–17

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these miraculous signs you are doing unless God is with him.”

<sup>3</sup>Jesus replied, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless someone is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

<sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?”

<sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God! <sup>6</sup>Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh. Whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be surprised when I tell you that you must be born from above. <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it pleases. You hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup>“How can these things be?” asked Nicodemus.

<sup>10</sup>“You are the teacher of Israel,” Jesus answered, “and you do not know these things? <sup>11</sup>Amen, Amen, I tell you: We speak what we know, and we testify about what we have seen. But you people do not accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven, except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man, who is in heaven.

<sup>14</sup>“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

# Proper 3

*Lutheran Service Book 3-Year Lectionary, Year B*  
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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Hosea 2:14-20

<sup>14</sup>But watch! I am going to court her.

I will bring her into the wilderness.

I will speak tenderly to her.

<sup>15</sup>There I will give her vineyards back to her.

The Valley of Achor will be a door of hope.

She will respond there as in the days of her youth,  
as in the day she came up from the land of Egypt.

<sup>16</sup>In that day, declares the LORD, this is what will take place:

You will call me “my husband.”

You will no longer call me “my master.”

<sup>17</sup>For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth.

She will no longer call them by their names.

<sup>18</sup>In that day I will make a covenant for the Israelites with the wild animals,  
with the birds of the sky and the things that creep on the ground.

I will break the bow and the sword.

I will abolish war from the land.

I will allow the people to lie down safely.

<sup>19</sup>I will pledge you to myself in marriage forever.

I will pledge you to myself in marriage—

with righteousness, justice, mercy, and compassion.

<sup>20</sup>In faithfulness I will pledge you to myself in marriage,  
and you will know the LORD.

## Epistle / Second Reading

### Acts 2:14a, 36–47

<sup>14</sup>Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and spoke loudly and clearly to them:

<sup>36</sup>“Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

<sup>37</sup>Now when the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Gentlemen, brothers, what should we do?”

<sup>38</sup>Peter answered them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

<sup>40</sup>He testified solemnly with many other words and was appealing to them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.”

<sup>41</sup>Those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added.

<sup>42</sup>They continued to hold firmly to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of the bread, and to the prayers. <sup>43</sup>Awe came over every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup>They were selling their possessions and property and were distributing the proceeds according to what anyone needed.

<sup>46</sup>Day after day, with one mind, they were devoted to meeting in the temple area, as they continued to break bread in their homes. They shared their food with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup>as they continued praising God and being viewed favorably by all the people. Day after day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

## **Holy Gospel**

### **Mark 2:(13–17) 18-22**

<sup>13</sup>Jesus went out again along the sea. The whole crowd went to him, and he taught them. <sup>14</sup>As he was passing by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him. And Levi got up and followed him.

<sup>15</sup>Then when Jesus was reclining at a table in Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples because many of them also were following him. <sup>16</sup>When the experts in the law and the Pharisees saw that he was eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, "Why is he eating and drinking with tax collectors and sinners?"

<sup>17</sup>When Jesus heard this, he said to them, "Those who are healthy do not need a physician, but the sick do. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

<sup>18</sup>John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. They came and asked Jesus, "Why is it that John's disciples and the Pharisees' disciples fast, but your disciples do not fast?"

<sup>19</sup>Jesus said to them, "The friends of the bridegroom cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. <sup>20</sup>But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then on that day they will fast. <sup>21</sup>No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the patch shrinks, the new tears away from the old, and a worse tear is made. <sup>22</sup>No one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will pour out, and the skins will be ruined. Instead, new wine is poured into new wineskins."

# Proper 4

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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Deuteronomy 5:12–15

<sup>12</sup>Observe the Sabbath day by setting it apart as holy, just as the LORD your God commanded you. <sup>13</sup>Six days you are to serve and perform all of your regular work, <sup>14</sup>but the seventh day is a sabbath rest to the LORD your God. You are not to do any regular work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant or your ox or your donkey or any of your livestock or the alien who resides inside your gates, in order that your male servant and your female servant may rest like you. <sup>15</sup>Remember that you were slaves in the land of Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out from there with a strong hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the day of rest.

## Epistle / Second Reading

### 2 Corinthians 4:5–12

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For the God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," is the same one who made light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the person of Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>We hold this treasure in clay jars to show that its extraordinary power is from God and not from us. <sup>8</sup>We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; perplexed, yet not despairing; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed. <sup>10</sup>We always carry around in our body the death of the Lord Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. <sup>11</sup>To be sure, while we are living we are continually being handed over to death because of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup>So then, death is working in us, but life is working in you.

## Holy Gospel

### Mark 2:23–28 (3:1-6)

<sup>23</sup>Once on a Sabbath day, Jesus was passing through the grain fields, and his disciples began to pick heads of grain as they walked along. <sup>24</sup>The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath day?"

<sup>25</sup>He replied to them, "Have you never read what David did when he was in need and hungry (he and his companions)? <sup>26</sup>He entered the house of God in the time of Abiathar the high priest and ate the Bread of the Presence, which is not lawful for anyone to eat, except for the priests. He also gave some to his companions."

<sup>27</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. <sup>28</sup>So the Son of Man is the Lord even of the Sabbath."

<sup>3:1</sup>Jesus entered the synagogue again, and a man was there with a withered hand. <sup>2</sup>They were watching Jesus closely to see if he would heal the man on the Sabbath day, so that they could accuse him. <sup>3</sup>He said to the man with the withered hand, “Step forward!” <sup>4</sup>Then he said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath day to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent. <sup>5</sup>Then he looked around at them with anger, deeply grieved at the hardness of their hearts. He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” The man stretched it out, and his hand was restored. <sup>6</sup>The Pharisees left and immediately began to conspire against Jesus with the Herodians, plotting how they might kill him.

# Proper 5

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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Genesis 3:8–15

<sup>8</sup>They heard the voice of the LORD God, who was walking around in the garden during the cooler part of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

<sup>9</sup>The LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

<sup>10</sup>The man said, “I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself.”

<sup>11</sup>God said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?”

<sup>12</sup>The man said, “The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

<sup>13</sup>The LORD God said to the woman, “What have you done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

<sup>14</sup>The LORD God said to the serpent:

Because you have done this,  
you are cursed more than all the livestock,  
and more than every wild animal.  
You shall crawl on your belly,  
and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup>I will put hostility between you and the woman,  
and between your seed and her seed.

He will crush your head,  
and you will crush his heel.

## Epistle / Second Reading

### 2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1

<sup>13</sup>Since we have that same spirit of faith, which corresponds to what is written: “I believed; therefore, I have spoken,” we also believe, and therefore we speak. <sup>14</sup>For we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus and bring us (together with you) into his presence. <sup>15</sup>In fact, all this is for your benefit, so that as grace increases, it will overflow to the glory of God, as more and more people give thanks.

<sup>16</sup>Therefore we are not discouraged. But even if our outer self is wasting away, yet our inner self is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup>Yes, our momentary, light trouble produces for us an eternal weight of glory that is far beyond any comparison. <sup>18</sup>We are not focusing on what is seen, but on what is not seen. For the things that are seen are temporary, but the things that are not seen are eternal.

<sup>5:1</sup>Now we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal home in heaven, which is not made by human hands.

## Holy Gospel

### Mark 3:20–35

<sup>20</sup>They went into a house. A crowd gathered again so that they were not even able to eat a meal. <sup>21</sup>When his own people heard this, they went out to take control of him, because they were saying, “He is out of his mind.”

<sup>22</sup>The experts in the law who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “He drives out demons by the ruler of demons.”

<sup>23</sup>Jesus called them together and spoke to them in parables. “How can Satan drive out Satan? <sup>24</sup>If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup>And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. <sup>26</sup>And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand but is finished. <sup>27</sup>On the other hand, no one can enter a strong man’s house to steal his possessions unless he ties up the strong man first. Then he can plunder his house. <sup>28</sup>Amen I tell you: Everything will be forgiven people, their sins and whatever blasphemies they may speak. <sup>29</sup>But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus said this because they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

<sup>31</sup>Then his mother and his brothers arrived. While they were standing outside, they sent word to Jesus, calling for him. <sup>32</sup>A crowd was sitting around him. They began to tell him, “Look, your mother and your brothers are outside looking for you.”

<sup>33</sup>He replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” <sup>34</sup>He looked at those who sat around him in a circle and he said, “Look, my mother and my brothers! <sup>35</sup>For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

# Proper 6

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## Old Testament / First Reading

### **Ezekiel 17:22-24**

<sup>22</sup>This is what the LORD God says. I myself will take part of the tip of the cedar and plant it. From the topmost of its shoots I will pluck off a tender sprig, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. <sup>23</sup>On the high mountain of Israel I will plant it. It will produce branches, bear fruit, and become a magnificent cedar. Flying birds of every kind will live under it. In the shelter of its branches they will nest. <sup>24</sup>Then all the trees in the countryside will know that I, the LORD, bring down the high tree and raise up the low tree, that I make the green tree dry up, and I make the dried-up tree blossom. I, the LORD, have spoken, and I will carry it out.

## Epistle / Second Reading

### **2 Corinthians 5:1–10 (11-17)**

Now we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal home in heaven, which is not made by human hands. <sup>2</sup>In fact, the reason we groan is that we long to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven. <sup>3</sup>If we do indeed put it on, we will certainly not be found naked. <sup>4</sup>To be sure, while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed, but to be clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup>Now the one who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave us the Spirit as the down payment.

<sup>6</sup>Therefore we are always confident and know that while we are at home in the body, we are away from the Lord, <sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>But we are confident and would much prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>And for this reason we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home or away. <sup>10</sup>For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he did while in the body, whether good or bad.

<sup>11</sup>So, since we know the fear of the Lord, we are trying to persuade people. Now, we are well known by God, and I hope that we are also well known in your consciences. <sup>12</sup>We are not commending ourselves to you again, but we are giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you have a reply for those who boast about outward appearance rather than what is in the heart.

<sup>13</sup>Actually, if we were out of our minds, it was for God. If we are in our right minds, it is for you. <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ compels us, because we came to this conclusion: One died for all; therefore, all died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, so that those who live would no longer live for themselves but for him, who died in their place and was raised again.

<sup>16</sup>As a result, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we knew Christ according to the flesh, we no longer know him that way. <sup>17</sup>So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. The new has come!

# Holy Gospel

## Mark 4:26–34

<sup>26</sup>He said, “The kingdom of God is like this: A man scatters seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup>and while he sleeps and rises, night and day the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The ground produces fruit on its own: first the blade, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>When the crop is ready, he swings the sickle without delay, because the harvest has come.”

<sup>30</sup>Then he said, “To what should we compare the kingdom of God? Or with what parable may we picture it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which when sown on the ground is one of the smallest of all the seeds planted in the ground. <sup>32</sup>Yet when it is planted, it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches so that the birds of the sky can nest under its shade.”

<sup>33</sup>With many similar parables he continued to speak the word to them, as much as they were able to hear. <sup>34</sup>He did not speak to them without a parable. But when he was alone with his disciples, he explained everything to them.

# Proper 7

*Lutheran Service Book 3-Year Lectionary, Year B*  
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## Old Testament / First Reading

**Job 38:1-11**

Then the LORD responded to Job out of a violent storm. He said:

<sup>2</sup>Who is this who spreads darkness over my plans with his ignorant words?

<sup>3</sup>Get ready for action like a man!

Then I will ask you questions,  
and you will inform me.

<sup>4</sup>Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you understand anything about it.

<sup>5</sup>Who determined its dimensions?

I am sure you know.

Who stretched out the surveying line over it?

<sup>6</sup>What supports its foundation?

Who set its cornerstone in place,

<sup>7</sup>when the morning stars sang loud songs together,  
and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

<sup>8</sup>Who locked up the sea behind doors  
when it burst out of the womb?

<sup>9</sup>When I clothed the sea with clouds,  
when I wrapped it with thick darkness as its swaddling cloths,

<sup>10</sup>when I broke its power with my decree,  
when I locked it up behind barred, double doors,

<sup>11</sup>I said, "You may come this far, but no farther.

Here is the barrier for your proud waves."

## Epistle / Second Reading

**2 Corinthians 6:1-13**

As fellow workers we also urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says:

At a favorable time I listened to you,  
and in the day of salvation I helped you.

Look, now is the favorable time! See, now is the day of salvation!

<sup>3</sup>We are giving no one a reason to stumble in any way, so that our ministry will not be blamed.

<sup>4</sup>Rather, in every way we show ourselves to be God's ministers: in great endurance, in troubles, in hardships, in difficulties, <sup>5</sup>in beatings, in imprisonments, in riots, in hard work, in sleepless nights, in times of hunger; <sup>6</sup>in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in sincere love, <sup>7</sup>in the word of truth, in the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness on the right and on the left; <sup>8</sup>through glory and dishonor, through bad report and good report; treated as deceivers yet

being honest, <sup>9</sup>treated as unknown and yet being well known; as dying, and yet look—we live; as punished yet not put to death; <sup>10</sup>as grieving yet always rejoicing; as poor yet making many rich; as having nothing yet possessing everything.

<sup>11</sup>We have spoken to you openly, Corinthians. Our heart is standing wide open. <sup>12</sup>We have plenty of room for you, but you do not have room for us in your affections. <sup>13</sup>I am speaking as to my children: In exchange, open your hearts wide too.

## Holy Gospel

### Mark 4:35–41

<sup>35</sup>On that day, when evening came, Jesus said to them, “Let’s go over to the other side.” <sup>36</sup>After leaving the crowd behind, the disciples took him along in the boat, just as he was. Other small boats also followed him. <sup>37</sup>A great windstorm arose, and the waves were splashing into the boat, so that the boat was quickly filling up. <sup>38</sup>Jesus himself was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. They woke him and said, “Teacher, don’t you care that we are about to drown?”

<sup>39</sup>Then he got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” The wind stopped, and there was a great calm. <sup>40</sup>He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still lack faith?”

<sup>41</sup>They were filled with awe and said to one another, “Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!”

# Proper 8

*Lutheran Service Book 3-Year Lectionary, Year B*  
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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Lamentations 3:22-33

<sup>22</sup>By the mercies of the LORD we are not consumed, for his compassions do not fail.

<sup>23</sup>They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness.

<sup>24</sup>My soul says, “The LORD is my portion. Therefore, I will hope in him.”

<sup>25</sup>The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.

<sup>26</sup>It is good to hope quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

<sup>27</sup>It is good for a man that he bears a yoke early in his life.

<sup>28</sup>Let him sit alone and be silent, because the LORD has laid this upon him.

<sup>29</sup>Let him stick his face in the dust. Perhaps there still is hope.

<sup>30</sup>Let him turn his cheek toward the one who strikes him. Let him be filled with disgrace.

<sup>31</sup>For the Lord will not push us away forever.

<sup>32</sup>Even though he brings grief, he will show compassion on the basis of his great mercy.

<sup>33</sup>Certainly, it is not what his heart desires when he causes affliction,  
when he brings grief to the children of men.

## Epistle / Second Reading

### 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 13-15

Now brothers, we want you to know about the grace of God that was given in the churches of Macedonia: <sup>2</sup>In a severe test of trouble, their overflowing joy and their deep poverty overflowed into an abundance of their generosity. <sup>3</sup>I testify that of their own free will they gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability, <sup>4</sup>pleading with us with an urgent request for the gracious privilege of joining in this service to the saints. <sup>5</sup>And they did this not as we had expected, but in keeping with God’s will they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us. <sup>6</sup>As a result we urged Titus, since he had already made a beginning, to bring to completion this gracious gift on your part. <sup>7</sup>But just as you overflow in every way—in faith, in word, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you also overflow in this gracious gift.

<sup>8</sup>I do not say this as a command, but to test how genuine your love is, by comparing it with the eagerness of others. <sup>9</sup>For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that although he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich.

<sup>13</sup>Certainly, our goal is not that others take it easy while you are burdened, but that there may be equality. <sup>14</sup>At the present time, your abundance will provide what they lack, in order that their abundance will also provide what you lack—in this way there will be equality. <sup>15</sup>As it is written, “The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little.”

# Holy Gospel

## Mark 5:21-43

<sup>21</sup>When Jesus had again crossed over in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around him near the sea. <sup>22</sup>Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came. When he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet <sup>23</sup>and repeatedly pleaded with him, “My little daughter is near death. Please come and place your hands on her so that she may be healed and live.”

<sup>24</sup>Jesus went with him, and a large crowd was following him, pressing tightly against him. <sup>25</sup>A certain woman who was there had a discharge of blood for twelve years. <sup>26</sup>She had suffered much under the care of many physicians and had spent all that she had. Yet instead of getting better, she grew worse. <sup>27</sup>When she heard what was being said about Jesus, she went up behind him in the crowd and touched his robe. <sup>28</sup>She said, “If I just touch his robe, I will be healed.” <sup>29</sup>Immediately her flow of blood stopped, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction.

<sup>30</sup>At that moment, Jesus knew that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my robe?”

<sup>31</sup>His disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing tightly against you and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’”

<sup>32</sup>Nevertheless he kept looking around to see who had done this. <sup>33</sup>The woman was trembling with fear since she knew what had happened to her. She came forward, fell down in front of him, and told him the whole truth.

<sup>34</sup>He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace and be healed of your suffering.”

<sup>35</sup>While he was still speaking, people from the synagogue ruler’s house arrived, saying, “Your daughter is dead. Why bother the Teacher anymore?”

<sup>36</sup>But when Jesus heard this report, he told the synagogue ruler, “Don’t be afraid. Only believe.” <sup>37</sup>He did not allow anyone to follow him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. <sup>38</sup>They went into the house of the synagogue ruler, and Jesus saw a commotion with people weeping and wailing loudly. <sup>39</sup>When he entered, he said to them, “Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping.”

<sup>40</sup>They laughed at him. But after he put everyone out, he took the father of the child, her mother, and those who were with him and went in where the child was. <sup>41</sup>Grasping the hand of the child, he said to her, “*Talitha, koum!*” (When translated, that means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise!”) <sup>42</sup>Immediately the little girl stood up and began to walk around. (She was twelve years old.) They were completely and utterly amazed. <sup>43</sup>Then he gave them strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and he told them to give her something to eat.

# Proper 9

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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Ezekiel 2:1-5

He said to me, “Son of man, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.”<sup>2</sup>The Spirit entered into me as he spoke to me and brought me up to my feet. Then I heard him speaking to me.

<sup>3</sup>He said to me, “Son of man, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to disloyal nations, who have been disloyal to me. They and their fathers have rebelled against me to this very day. <sup>4</sup>These children of mine are brazen-faced and hard-hearted. I am sending you to them, and you are to tell them that this is what the LORD God says. <sup>5</sup>Then, whether they listen or do not listen—for they are a rebellious house—then they will know that a prophet has been among them.”

## Epistle / Second Reading

### 2 Corinthians 12:1–10

I must go on boasting, although there is nothing to be gained. So I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. <sup>2</sup>I know a man in Christ who, fourteen years ago, was carried up to the third heaven (whether in the body, I do not know, or out of the body, I do not know—God knows). <sup>3</sup>And I know that such a man (whether in the body or out of the body, I do not know—God knows) <sup>4</sup>was carried up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words that a man cannot possibly speak. <sup>5</sup>On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except about my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup>Indeed, if I wanted to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain from doing this, so that no one will think more highly of me than what he sees in me or hears from me.

<sup>7</sup>Therefore, to keep me from becoming arrogant due to the extraordinary nature of these revelations, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me, so that I would not become arrogant. <sup>8</sup>Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that he would take it away from me. <sup>9</sup>And he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, because my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will be glad to boast all the more in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may shelter me.

<sup>10</sup>That is why I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties, for the sake of Christ. For whenever I am weak, then am I strong.

## Holy Gospel

### Mark 6:1–13

Jesus left there and went to his hometown. His disciples followed him. <sup>2</sup>When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue. Many who heard him were amazed. They asked, “Where did this man learn these things? What is this wisdom that has been given to this man? How is it that miracles such as these are performed by his hands? <sup>3</sup>Isn’t this the carpenter, the son of Mary and the

brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.

<sup>4</sup>Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and among his own relatives and in his own house." <sup>5</sup>He could not do any miracles there except to lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. <sup>6</sup>He was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went around the villages teaching.

<sup>7</sup>Jesus called the Twelve and began to send them out two by two. He gave them authority over the unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup>He instructed them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their money belts. <sup>9</sup>They were to put on sandals but not to wear two coats. <sup>10</sup>He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that area. <sup>11</sup>Any place that will not receive you or listen to you, as you leave there, shake off the dust that is under your feet as a testimony against them."

<sup>12</sup>They went out and preached that people should repent. <sup>13</sup>They also drove out many demons. They anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

# Proper 10

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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Amos 7:7-15

<sup>7</sup>This is what he showed me: I saw the Lord standing by a wall that had been constructed with a plumb line. He had a plumb line in his hand.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD said to me, “What do you see, Amos?”

I said, “A plumb line.”

Then the Lord said:

Look, I am about to set up a plumb line next to my people Israel.

I will no longer overlook their sin.

<sup>9</sup>The high places of Isaac will be desolate,  
and the sanctuaries of Israel will be ruined.

I will rise up against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.

<sup>10</sup>Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent a message to Jeroboam king of Israel:

Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to endure all of his words. <sup>11</sup>This is what Amos says: “Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will certainly go into exile away from its own soil.”

<sup>12</sup>Then Amaziah said to Amos, “You seer, get out of here! Flee to the land of Judah. You may eat food and prophesy there. <sup>13</sup>But you must never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the sanctuary of the king and the national temple.”

<sup>14</sup>Then Amos responded to Amaziah:

I was not a prophet, nor was I a son of a prophet. Rather, I was a sheep breeder and I took care of sycamore fig trees. <sup>15</sup>But the LORD took me from tending flocks, and the LORD said to me, “Go, prophesy to my people Israel.”

## Epistle / Second Reading

### Ephesians 1:3–14

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

<sup>4</sup>He did this when he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, so that we would be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ. He did this in accordance with the good purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup>and for the praise of his glorious grace, which he has graciously given us in the one he loves.

<sup>7</sup>In him we also have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in keeping with the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup>which he lavished on us in all wisdom and insight. <sup>9</sup>He made known to us the mystery of his will in keeping with his good purpose, which he planned in Christ. <sup>10</sup>This was to be carried out when the time had fully come, in order to bring all things together in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth.

<sup>11</sup>In him we have also obtained an inheritance, because we were predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in keeping with the purpose of his will. <sup>12</sup>He did this so that his glory would be praised as a result of us, who were the first to hope in Christ.

<sup>13</sup>In him, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and in him, when you also believed, you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. <sup>14</sup>He is the down payment of our inheritance until the redemption of God's own possession, so that his glory would be praised.

## Holy Gospel

### Mark 6:14–29

<sup>14</sup>King Herod heard about this because Jesus' name had become well known. Herod was saying, "John the Baptizer has been raised from the dead! That is why these powers are at work in him."

<sup>15</sup>But others were saying, "He is Elijah." Still others were saying, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old."

<sup>16</sup>When Herod heard this, he said, "This is John, the man I beheaded. He was raised." <sup>17</sup>For it was Herod who had sent men to arrest John. He had him bound in prison because Herod had married Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip. <sup>18</sup>Indeed, John had been telling him, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."

<sup>19</sup>Herodias held a grudge against John and wanted to put him to death, but she could not, <sup>20</sup>because Herod feared John. He knew that John was a righteous and holy man, so he kept him safe. When Herod listened to John, he was perplexed in many ways, yet he gladly kept listening to him.

<sup>21</sup>An opportune day came when it was Herod's birthday. He gave a banquet for his nobles, the military officers, and the prominent men of Galilee. <sup>22</sup>When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask me whatever you want, and I will give it to you." <sup>23</sup>With an oath he promised her, "Whatever you ask of me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom."

<sup>24</sup>She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?"

Herodias said, "The head of John the Baptizer."

<sup>25</sup>The girl hurried right back to the king and made her request: "I want you to give me the head of John the Baptist on a platter right now."

<sup>26</sup>The king was very sad. But because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup>The king sent an executioner at once and ordered him to bring John's head. He went, beheaded John in prison, <sup>28</sup>brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother.

<sup>29</sup>When John's disciples heard about this, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

# Proper 11

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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Jeremiah 23:1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! declares the LORD.

<sup>2</sup>Therefore, this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds who shepherd my people.

You have scattered my flock.

You have driven them away.

You have not taken care of them,  
but I will certainly take care of you,  
because of the evil things you have done,  
declares the LORD.

<sup>3</sup>I will gather what is left of my flock  
out of all the countries where I have driven them,  
and I will bring them back to their pastures.

They will be fruitful and multiply.

<sup>4</sup>I will raise up shepherds over them  
who will shepherd them.

They will no longer be afraid or terrified,  
nor will any be missing, declares the LORD.

<sup>5</sup>Listen, the days are coming, declares the LORD,  
when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch,  
who will reign wisely as king  
and establish justice and righteousness on earth.

<sup>6</sup>In his days Judah will be saved  
and Israel will dwell securely.

This is his name by which he will be called:

The LORD Our Righteousness.

## Epistle / Second Reading

### Ephesians 2:11–22

<sup>11</sup>Therefore, remember that at one time, you Gentiles in the flesh—the ones who are called “uncircumcised” by those called “the circumcised” (which is performed physically by human hands)—<sup>12</sup>remember that at that time you were separated from Christ, excluded from the citizenship of Israel, and foreigners to the covenants of the promise. You were without hope and without God in the world.

<sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus, you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For he himself is our peace. He made the two groups one by destroying the wall of hostility

that divided them <sup>15</sup>when he abolished the law of commandments and regulations in his flesh. He did this to create in himself one new person out of the two, in this way making peace. <sup>16</sup>And he did this to reconcile both to God in one body through the cross by putting the hostility to death on it. <sup>17</sup>He also came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup>For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

<sup>19</sup>So then, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of God's household. <sup>20</sup>You have been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the Cornerstone. <sup>21</sup>In him the whole building is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup>In him you too are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

## Holy Gospel

### Mark 6:30–44

<sup>30</sup>The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all that they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup>He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a while." For there were so many people coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat. <sup>32</sup>They went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. <sup>33</sup>But many people saw them leave and knew where they were going. They ran there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. <sup>34</sup>When Jesus stepped out of the boat, he saw a large crowd. His heart went out to them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. He began to teach them many things. <sup>35</sup>It was already late in the day when his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place and it is already very late. <sup>36</sup>Send them away so they can go into the surrounding country and villages and buy themselves something to eat."

<sup>37</sup>But he answered them, "You give them something to eat."

They asked him, "Should we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give them something to eat?"

<sup>38</sup>He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go see."

When they found out, they said, "Five, and two fish."

<sup>39</sup>He directed everyone to sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup>They sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. <sup>41</sup>Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven, and blessed the loaves and broke them. Then he kept giving pieces to his disciples to set in front of them. He also divided the two fish among them all. <sup>42</sup>They all ate and were satisfied. <sup>43</sup>Then they picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. <sup>44</sup>There were five thousand men who ate the loaves.

# Proper 12

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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Genesis 9:8–17

<sup>8</sup>God said to Noah and to his sons, who were with him, <sup>9</sup>“Listen, I will now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you <sup>10</sup>and with everything with you that has the breath of life: with the birds, with the livestock, and with every wild animal that is on the earth with you, with everything that went out of the ark, even with every wild animal on the earth. <sup>11</sup>I will establish my covenant with you: Never again will all living creatures be cut off by the waters of a flood. Neither will there ever again be a flood to destroy the earth.”

<sup>12</sup>God also said, “This is the sign of the covenant between me and you and every living creature with you that I am giving for all generations to come. <sup>13</sup>I have set my rainbow in the cloud, and it will be the sign of a covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>Whenever I bring a cloud over the earth and the rainbow is seen in the cloud, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of every sort, and the waters will never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>The rainbow will be in the cloud. I will look at it so that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of every kind that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

## Epistle / Second Reading

### Ephesians 3:14–21

<sup>14</sup>For this reason I kneel before the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup>from whom the entire family in heaven and on earth receives its name. <sup>16</sup>I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he would strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner self, <sup>17</sup>so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. Then, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup>I pray that you would be able to comprehend, along with all the saints, how wide and long and high and deep his love is, <sup>19</sup>and that you would be able to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled to all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup>Now to him, who is able, according to the power that is at work within us, to do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, <sup>21</sup>to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.

# Holy Gospel

## Mark 6:45–56

<sup>45</sup>Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he himself dismissed the crowd. <sup>46</sup>After he had sent them off, he went up the mountain to pray.

<sup>47</sup>When it was evening, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and Jesus was alone on the land. <sup>48</sup>He saw them straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night, he went to them, walking on the sea. He was ready to pass by them. <sup>49</sup>When they saw him walking on the sea, they thought he was a ghost, and they cried out. <sup>50</sup>They all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke with them and said, “Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid.” <sup>51</sup>Then he climbed up into the boat with them, and the wind stopped. They were completely amazed, <sup>52</sup>because they had not understood about the loaves. Instead, their hearts were hardened.

<sup>53</sup>When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. <sup>54</sup>As soon as they stepped out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. <sup>55</sup>They ran around that whole region and began to bring sick people on their stretchers to where they heard he was. <sup>56</sup>Wherever he entered villages, cities, or the countryside, they were laying sick people in the marketplaces and pleading with him that they might just touch the edge of his garment. And all who touched it were made well.

# Proper 13

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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Exodus 16:2–15

<sup>2</sup>The entire Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the LORD’s hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat around pots of meat and ate as much food as we wanted, but now you have brought us out into this wilderness to have this whole community die of hunger.”

<sup>4</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, “Watch what I will do. I will rain down bread from heaven for you, and the people will go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test whether they will follow my instructions or not. <sup>5</sup>On the sixth day they will prepare what they bring in, and it will be twice as much as they gather on the other days.”

<sup>6</sup>So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “At evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, <sup>7</sup>and in the morning you will see the Glory of the LORD, because he has heard your constant grumbling against the LORD. Who are we that you should grumble against us?”

<sup>8</sup>Moses said, “Now the LORD will give you meat to eat in the evening and as much bread as you want in the morning, because the LORD has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD.”

<sup>9</sup>Then Moses said to Aaron, “Tell the entire Israelite community, ‘Come before the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling.’” <sup>10</sup>As Aaron spoke to the entire Israelite community, they turned toward the wilderness, and suddenly the Glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

<sup>11</sup>The LORD spoke to Moses: <sup>12</sup>“I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Say to them, ‘At evening you will eat meat, and in the morning you will eat bread until you are full. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.’”

<sup>13</sup>So in the evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning a layer of dew surrounded the camp. <sup>14</sup>When the layer of dew was gone, there were thin flakes on the surface of the wilderness, thin as frost on the ground. <sup>15</sup>When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” because they did not know what it was.

Moses said to them, “This is the bread which the LORD has given to you as food to eat.”

## Epistle / Second Reading

### Ephesians 4:1–16

As a prisoner in the Lord, therefore, I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called. <sup>2</sup>Live with all humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another in love.

<sup>3</sup>Make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in the one hope of your calling. <sup>5</sup>There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in us all.

<sup>7</sup>But to each one of us grace was given, according to the measure of the gift from Christ. <sup>8</sup>That is why it says, “When he ascended on high, he took captivity captive and gave gifts to his people.” <sup>9</sup>Now what does it mean when it says “he ascended,” other than that he also had descended to the lower parts, namely, the earth? <sup>10</sup>He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things. <sup>11</sup>He himself gave the apostles, as well as the prophets, as well as the evangelists, as well as the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>for the purpose of training the saints for the work of serving, in order to build up the body of Christ. <sup>13</sup>This is to continue until we all reach unity in the faith and knowledge of the Son of God, resulting in a mature man with a stature reaching to the measure of the fullness of Christ. <sup>14</sup>The goal is that we would no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, when people use tricks and invent clever ways to lead us astray. <sup>15</sup>Instead, speaking the truth in love, we would in all things grow up into Christ, who is the head. <sup>16</sup>From him the whole body, being joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows in accordance with Christ’s activity when he measured out each individual part. He causes the growth of the body so that it builds itself up in love.

## Holy Gospel

### John 6:22–35

<sup>22</sup>The next day, the crowd that stayed on the other side of the sea noticed that only one boat was there. They also knew that Jesus had not stepped into the boat with his disciples, but they had gone away without him. <sup>23</sup>Other boats from Tiberias came to shore near the place where they ate the bread after the Lord gave thanks. <sup>24</sup>When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. <sup>25</sup>When they found him on the other side of the sea, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

<sup>26</sup>Jesus answered them, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: You are not looking for me because you saw the miraculous signs, but because you ate the loaves and were filled. <sup>27</sup>Do not continue to work for the food that spoils, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

<sup>28</sup>So they said to him, “What should we do to carry out the works of God?”

<sup>29</sup>Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God: that you believe in the one he sent.”

<sup>30</sup>Then they asked him, “So what miraculous sign are you going to do, that we may see it and believe you? What miraculous sign are you going to perform? <sup>31</sup>Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, just as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

<sup>32</sup>Jesus said to them, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the real bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup>For the bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

<sup>34</sup>“Sir,” they said to him, “give us this bread all the time!”

<sup>35</sup>“I am the Bread of Life,” Jesus told them. “The one who comes to me will never be hungry, and the one who believes in me will never be thirsty.”

# Proper 14

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## Old Testament / First Reading

### 1 Kings 19:1-8

Then Ahab told Jezebel everything that Elijah had done, including the fact that he had killed all their prophets with the sword. <sup>2</sup>So Jezebel sent a messenger to say to Elijah, “May the gods punish me severely and even double it, if by this time tomorrow I have not made your life like one of theirs.”

<sup>3</sup>Elijah was afraid, and he ran for his life. He went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and he left his servant there. <sup>4</sup>But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness. There he sat down under a broom tree, where he prayed that he would die. He said, “I’ve had enough, LORD. Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers.” <sup>5</sup>Then he lay down and went to sleep under the broom tree.

Suddenly an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.”

<sup>6</sup>Then he looked around, and near his head there was a loaf of bread baking on coals and a jar of water, so he ate and drank, and then he lay down again.

<sup>7</sup>Then the angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, because the journey is too much for you.”

<sup>8</sup>So he got up and ate and drank. Then, with the strength gained from that food he walked for forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God.

## Epistle / Second Reading

### Ephesians 4:17–5:2

<sup>17</sup>So I tell you this and testify to it in the Lord: Do not walk any longer as the Gentiles walk, in their futile way of thinking. <sup>18</sup>They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, due to the hardness of their hearts. <sup>19</sup>Because they have no sense of shame, they have given themselves over to sensuality, with an ever-increasing desire to practice every kind of impurity.

<sup>20</sup>But you did not learn Christ in that way, <sup>21</sup>if indeed you have heard of him and were taught in him (since the truth is in Jesus). <sup>22</sup>As far as your former way of life is concerned, you were taught to take off the old self, which is corrupted by its deceitful desires, <sup>23</sup>and to be renewed continually in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup>and to put on the new self, which has been created to be like God in righteousness and true holiness.

<sup>25</sup>Therefore, after you put away lying, let each of you speak truthfully with your neighbor, because we are all members of one body. <sup>26</sup>“Be angry, yet do not sin.” Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry. <sup>27</sup>Do not give the Devil an opportunity. <sup>28</sup>Let the one who has been stealing steal no longer. Instead, let him work hard doing what is good with his own hands, so that he has something to share with a person who is in need. <sup>29</sup>Do not let any unwholesome talk come from your mouths. Say only what is beneficial when there is a need to build up others, so that it will be a blessing to those who hear. <sup>30</sup>Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Get rid of every kind of bitterness, rage, anger, quarreling, and slander, along with

every kind of malice. <sup>32</sup>Instead, be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one other, just as God in Christ has forgiven us.

<sup>5:1</sup>Therefore, be imitators of God as his dearly loved children. <sup>2</sup>And walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

## Holy Gospel

### John 6:35–51

<sup>35</sup>“I am the Bread of Life,” Jesus told them. “The one who comes to me will never be hungry, and the one who believes in me will never be thirsty. <sup>36</sup>But I said to you that you have also seen me, and you do not believe. <sup>37</sup>Everyone the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will never cast out. <sup>38</sup>For I have come down from heaven, not to do my will, but the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup>And this is the will of him who sent me: that I should lose none of those he has given me, but raise them up on the Last Day. <sup>40</sup>For this is the will of my Father: that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life. And I will raise him up on the Last Day.”

<sup>41</sup>So the Jews started grumbling about him, because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” <sup>42</sup>They asked, “Isn’t this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? So how can he say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?”

<sup>43</sup>Jesus answered them, “Stop grumbling among yourselves. <sup>44</sup>No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the Last Day. <sup>45</sup>It is written in the Prophets, ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. <sup>46</sup>I am not saying that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God. He is the one who has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup>Amen, Amen, I tell you: The one who believes in me has eternal life.

<sup>48</sup>“I am the Bread of Life. <sup>49</sup>Your fathers ate manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup>This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that anyone may eat it and not die. <sup>51</sup>I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever. The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

# Proper 15

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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Proverbs 9:1-10

Wisdom has built her house.  
She has carved out her seven pillars.  
<sup>2</sup>She has prepared her meat.  
She has mixed her wine.  
She has already set her table.  
<sup>3</sup>She has sent out her servant girls.  
She calls from the highest point in the city,  
<sup>4</sup>“Whoever is naïve, let him turn in here.”  
To someone who lacks sense she says,  
<sup>5</sup>“Come, eat my food,  
and drink the wine that I have mixed.  
<sup>6</sup>Abandon your naïve ways and live.  
Travel the road to understanding.”  
<sup>7</sup>Whoever corrects a mocker invites insults,  
and whoever warns a wicked person invites abuse.  
<sup>8</sup>Do not warn a mocker, or he will hate you.  
Warn a wise person, and he will love you.  
<sup>9</sup>Give advice to a wise person, and he will become even wiser.  
Teach a righteous person, and he will add to his learning.  
<sup>10</sup>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,  
and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

*Or*

### Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel at Shechem, and he summoned the elders of Israel, its heads, its judges, and its officers, and they presented themselves before God.

<sup>2</sup>Then Joshua told all the people, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel has said.”

<sup>14</sup>Joshua said, “Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve him wholeheartedly and faithfully. Remove the gods that your fathers served in the region across the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>But if you see no benefit in serving the LORD, then choose for yourselves today whomever you will serve—whether the gods that your fathers served beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household—we will serve the LORD!”

<sup>16</sup>The people responded by saying, “Far be it from us to forsake the LORD in order to serve other gods! <sup>17</sup>For the LORD our God, he is the one who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of

Egypt, where we were slaves. He is the one who performed these great signs right before our eyes and protected us on the whole journey that we made and among all the peoples through whom we passed. <sup>18</sup>The LORD drove out of our presence all the peoples and the Amorites who were living in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God!”

## **Epistle / Second Reading**

### **Ephesians 5:6–20**

<sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words. It is because of these things that the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup>So do not share in what they do.

<sup>8</sup>For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, <sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth. <sup>10</sup>Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord, <sup>11</sup>and do not participate in fruitless deeds of darkness. Instead, expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention the things that are done by people in secret. <sup>13</sup>But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes things visible. <sup>14</sup>Therefore it is said, “Awake, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

<sup>15</sup>Consider carefully, then, how you walk, not as unwise people, but as wise people. <sup>16</sup>Make the most of your time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>For this reason, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup>And do not get drunk on wine, which causes you to lose control. Instead, be filled with the Spirit <sup>19</sup>by speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (singing and making music with your hearts to the Lord), <sup>20</sup>by always giving thanks for everything to God the Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Holy Gospel**

### **John 6:51–69**

<sup>51</sup>I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever. The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

<sup>52</sup>At that, the Jews argued among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

<sup>53</sup>So Jesus said to them, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life in yourselves. <sup>54</sup>The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the Last Day. <sup>55</sup>For my flesh is real food, and my blood is real drink. <sup>56</sup>The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like your fathers ate and died. The one who eats this bread will live forever.”

<sup>59</sup>He said these things while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. <sup>60</sup>When they heard it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching! Who can listen to it?”

<sup>61</sup>But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, asked them, “Does this cause you to stumble in your faith? <sup>62</sup>What if you would see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>The Spirit is the one who gives life. The flesh does not help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. <sup>64</sup>But there are some of you who do not believe.” For

Jesus knew from the beginning those who would not believe and the one who would betray him.

<sup>65</sup>He said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me, unless it is given to him by my Father.”

<sup>66</sup>After this, many of his disciples turned back and were not walking with him anymore. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the Twelve, “You do not want to leave too, do you?”

<sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life.

<sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

# Proper 16

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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Isaiah 29:11-19

<sup>11</sup>For you this whole vision has become like the words of a sealed scroll. If you give it to someone who can read, and you say, "Read this, please," he will say, "I can't. It is sealed." <sup>12</sup>And if you give it to someone who cannot read, and you say, "Read this, please," he will say, "I can't read."

<sup>13</sup>The Lord says:

These people approach me with their words,  
and they honor me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me.

Their worship of me is nothing but commandments taught by men.

<sup>14</sup>So watch how I will continue to amaze these people  
with amazing, extraordinary things.

The wisdom of the wise will perish,  
and the intelligence of the intelligent will be hidden.

<sup>15</sup>Woe to those who try to hide their plans from the LORD.

Their deeds are done in darkness,  
and they think that no one sees them  
or knows what they are doing.

<sup>16</sup>You turn things upside down!

Should the potter be treated like clay?

Should the thing that was made say to its maker,

"You didn't make me"?

Should the creation say to the creator,

"You know nothing"?

<sup>17</sup>Isn't it true that in a very short time

Lebanon will be turned into a fertile field,  
and the fertile field will seem like a forest?

<sup>18</sup>On that day, the deaf will hear the words from a book,  
and out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see.

<sup>19</sup>The humble will rejoice in the LORD once again,  
and the poor will delight in the Holy One of Israel.

## Epistle / Second Reading

### Ephesians 5:22–33

<sup>22</sup>Wives, submit to your own husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife, just as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he himself is the Savior. <sup>24</sup>Moreover, as the church submits to Christ, so also wives are to submit to their husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, in the same way as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup>to make her holy, by cleansing her with the washing of water in connection with the Word. <sup>27</sup>He did this so that he could present her to himself as a glorious church, having no stain or wrinkle or any such thing, but so that she would be holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup>In the same way, husbands have an obligation to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup>To be sure, no one has ever hated his own body, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, <sup>30</sup>because we are members of his body, of his flesh and of his bones. <sup>31</sup>“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will be one flesh.” <sup>32</sup>This is a great mystery, but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup>In any case, each one of you also is to love his wife as himself, and each wife is to respect her husband.

## Holy Gospel

### Mark 7:1–13

The Pharisees and some of the experts in the law came from Jerusalem and gathered around Jesus. <sup>2</sup>They saw some of his disciples eating bread with unclean (that is, unwashed) hands. <sup>3</sup>In fact, the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they scrub their hands with a fist, holding to the tradition of the elders. <sup>4</sup>When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions they adhere to, such as the washing of cups, pitchers, kettles, and dining couches. <sup>5</sup>The Pharisees and the experts in the law asked Jesus, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders? Instead they eat bread with unclean hands.”

<sup>6</sup>He answered them, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites. As it is written: These people honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.

<sup>7</sup>They worship me in vain, teaching human rules as if they were doctrines.

<sup>8</sup>“You abandon God’s commandment but hold to human tradition like the washing of pitchers and cups, and you do many other such things.” <sup>9</sup>He continued, “You have a fine way of setting aside God’s commandment to keep your own tradition. <sup>10</sup>For example, Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever speaks evil of his father or mother must be put to death.’ <sup>11</sup>But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or mother, “Whatever help you might have received from me is *corban*”’ (which means an offering), <sup>12</sup>then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. <sup>13</sup>So you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. You do many things like that.”

# Proper 17

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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–9

So now, Israel, listen to the statutes and the ordinances that I am teaching you, and carry them out so that you may live and so that you may enter the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving to you and take possession of it. <sup>2</sup>Do not add to the word that I am commanding you, and do not subtract from it, so that you keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you.

<sup>6</sup>Keep them and put them into practice, because in this way your wisdom and your understanding will be recognized by all the people who hear about all these statutes; and they will say, “This great nation is certainly a wise and understanding people,” <sup>7</sup>because what other great nation is there that has a god as close to it as the LORD our God is to us whenever we call on him? <sup>8</sup>What other great nation is there that has statutes and ordinances as righteous as this entire law that I am presenting to you today?

<sup>9</sup>But guard yourselves and guard your whole being diligently, so that you do not forget the things that your eyes have seen and so that those things do not disappear from your heart all the rest of the days of your life. Make them known to your children and to your children’s children.

## Epistle / Second Reading

### Ephesians 6:10–20

<sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the full armor of God, so that you can stand against the schemes of the Devil. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>For this reason, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to take a stand on the evil day and, after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup>Stand, then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness fastened in place, <sup>15</sup>and with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace tied to your feet like sandals. <sup>16</sup>At all times hold up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the Evil One. <sup>17</sup>Also take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup>At every opportunity, pray in the Spirit with every kind of prayer and petition. Stay alert for the same reason, always persevering in your intercession for all the saints. <sup>19</sup>Pray for me also, that when I open my mouth a message will be given to me that boldly reveals the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may speak about it boldly, as it is necessary for me to speak.

# Holy Gospel

## Mark 7:14–23

<sup>14</sup>He called the crowd to him again and said, “Everyone, listen to me and understand. <sup>15</sup>There is nothing outside of a man that can make him unclean by going into him. But the things that come out of a man are what make a man unclean. <sup>16</sup>If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!”

<sup>17</sup>After he had left the crowd and entered a house, his disciples asked him about this illustration. <sup>18</sup>He said, “Are you lacking in understanding too? Do you not understand that whatever goes into a man from the outside cannot make him unclean? <sup>19</sup>For it does not enter his heart but goes into his stomach and goes out of him into the latrine—in this way all foods are purified.”

<sup>20</sup>He continued, “What comes out of a man, that is what makes a man unclean. <sup>21</sup>In fact, from within, out of people’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual sins, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, unrestrained immorality, envy, slander, arrogance, and foolishness. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things proceed from within and make a person unclean.”

# Proper 18

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## Old Testament / First Reading

**Isaiah 35:4-7a**

<sup>4</sup>Tell those who have a fearful heart:

Be strong.

Do not be afraid.

Look! Your God will come with vengeance.

With God's own retribution, he will come and save you.

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf will be unplugged.

<sup>6</sup>The crippled will leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy.

Waters will flow in the wilderness,  
and streams in the wasteland.

<sup>7</sup>The burning sand will become a pool,  
and in the thirsty ground there will be springs of water.

## Epistle / Second Reading

**James 2:1–10, 14-18**

My brothers, have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ without showing favoritism. <sup>2</sup>For example, suppose a man enters your worship assembly wearing gold rings and fine clothing, and a poor man also enters wearing filthy clothing. <sup>3</sup>If you look with favor on the man wearing fine clothing and say, "Sit here in this good place," but you tell the poor man, "Stand over there" or "Sit down here at my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not made a distinction among yourselves and become judges with evil opinions? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my dear brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom, which he promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you dishonored the poor man. Don't the rich oppress you, and don't they drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Aren't they the ones who blaspheme the noble name that was pronounced over you? <sup>8</sup>However, if you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. <sup>9</sup>But if you show favoritism, you are committing a sin, since you are convicted by this law as transgressors.

<sup>10</sup>In fact, whoever keeps the whole law but stumbles in one point has become guilty of breaking all of it.

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers, if someone says that he has faith but has no works? Such "faith" cannot save him, can it? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister needs clothes and lacks daily food <sup>16</sup>and one of you tells them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but does not give them what their body needs, what good is it? <sup>17</sup>So also, such "faith," if it is alone and has no works, is dead. <sup>18</sup>But someone will

say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

## Holy Gospel

### Mark 7:(24-30) 31–37

<sup>24</sup>Jesus got up and went from there to the region of Tyre and Sidon. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it, but he could not remain hidden. <sup>25</sup>Instead, when a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard about him, she immediately came and fell down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>This woman was a Greek, of Syro-Phoenician origin. She asked him to drive the demon out of her daughter.

<sup>27</sup>Jesus said to her, “Let the children be fed first, because it is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to their little dogs.”

<sup>28</sup>“Lord,” she answered, “their little dogs under the table also eat some of the children’s crumbs.”

<sup>29</sup>Then he said to her, “Because of this statement, go! The demon has gone out of your daughter.”

<sup>30</sup>She went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup>Jesus left the region of Tyre again and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, within the region of the Decapolis.

<sup>32</sup>They brought a man to him who was deaf and had a speech impediment. They pleaded with Jesus to place his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>Jesus took him aside in private, away from the crowd. He put his fingers into the man’s ears. Then he spit and touched the man’s tongue. <sup>34</sup>After he looked up to heaven, he sighed and said, “*Ephphatha!*” (which means “Be opened!”) <sup>35</sup>Immediately the man’s ears were opened, his tongue was set free, and he began to speak plainly. <sup>36</sup>Jesus gave the people strict orders to tell no one, but the more he did so, the more they kept proclaiming it. <sup>37</sup>They were amazed beyond measure and said, “He has done everything well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak!”

# Proper 19

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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Isaiah 50:4-10

<sup>4</sup>The LORD God gave me a tongue like the learned, an instructed tongue,  
so I know how to sustain the weary with a word.

He wakes me up morning by morning.

He wakes up my ears so that I listen like the learned.

<sup>5</sup>The LORD God opened my ear,  
and I myself was not rebellious.

I did not turn back.

<sup>6</sup>I submitted my back to those who beat me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard.  
I did not hide my face from disgrace and from spit.

<sup>7</sup>The LORD God will help me,  
so I will not be disgraced.

Therefore I have made my face hard like flint.

I know that I will not be put to shame.

<sup>8</sup>The one who will acquit me is near!

Who can accuse me?

Let us take our stand.

Who can pass judgment on me?

Let him approach me.

<sup>9</sup>Look, the LORD God will help me.

Who then can declare me guilty?

Look, all of them will wear out like a garment.

A moth will consume them.

<sup>10</sup>Who among you worships the LORD  
and listens to the voice of his servant?

Anyone who walks in darkness  
and who has no bright light—

let him trust in the name of the LORD,  
and let him lean on his God.

## Epistle / Second Reading

### James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. <sup>2</sup>To be sure, we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a fully mature man, able to bridle his whole body as well.

<sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they will obey us, we also guide the whole animal. <sup>4</sup>And consider ships: Although they are very big and are driven by fierce winds, yet they are guided by a very small rudder, wherever the pilot wants to go. <sup>5</sup>So also the tongue is a small part of the body, yet it also boasts great things.

Consider how a little flame can set a large forest on fire! <sup>6</sup>And the tongue is a fire. It is set among the parts of our body as a world of unrighteousness that stains the whole body, sets the whole course of life on fire, and is set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and sea creature is being tamed and has been tamed by mankind. <sup>8</sup>But no one is able to tame the human tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people, who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup>Blessing and cursing come out of the same mouth. My brothers, these things should not be this way. <sup>11</sup>A spring does not pour out both fresh and bitter water from the same opening, does it? <sup>12</sup>Can a fig tree bear olives, my brothers, or can a grapevine produce figs? A salt spring cannot produce fresh water either.

## Holy Gospel

### Mark 9:14–29

<sup>14</sup>When they returned to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them, and some experts in the law were arguing with them. <sup>15</sup>As soon as all the people in the crowd saw Jesus, they were very excited and ran to greet him. <sup>16</sup>He asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?”

<sup>17</sup>One man from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who has a spirit that makes him unable to speak. <sup>18</sup>Wherever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive it out, but they could not.”

<sup>19</sup>“O unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied. “How long will I be with you? How long will I put up with you? Bring him to me.”

<sup>20</sup>They brought the boy to Jesus. As soon as the spirit saw him, it threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell on the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

<sup>21</sup>Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has this been happening to him?”

“From childhood,” he said. <sup>22</sup>“It has often thrown him into the fire and into the water to kill him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

<sup>23</sup>“If you can?” Jesus said to him. “All things are possible for the one who believes.”

<sup>24</sup>The child’s father immediately cried out and said with tears, “I do believe. Help me with my unbelief!”

<sup>25</sup>When Jesus saw that a crowd was quickly gathering, he rebuked the unclean spirit. “You mute and deaf spirit,” he said, “I command you to come out of him and never enter him again!”

<sup>26</sup>The spirit screamed, shook the boy violently, and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many of them said, “He’s dead!” <sup>27</sup>But Jesus took him by the hand, raised him up, and he stood up.

<sup>28</sup>When Jesus went into a house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why were we not able to drive it out?”

<sup>29</sup>He said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out, except by prayer and fasting.”

# Proper 20

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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Jeremiah 11:18-20

<sup>18</sup>The LORD revealed their plot to me so I became aware of it. He showed me what they were doing. <sup>19</sup>I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. I had not realized that they had plotted against me. They were saying:

“Let us destroy the tree along with its fruit.  
Let us cut him off from the land of the living,  
so that his name will no longer be remembered.”

<sup>20</sup>But, LORD of Armies, you judge righteously.

You test the heart and mind.

Let me see your vengeance on them,  
for I have presented my case to you.

## Epistle / Second Reading

### James 3:13–4:10

<sup>13</sup>Who among you is wise and intelligent? Let him by his good way of living show that he does things in wise humility. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not boast and lie, contrary to the truth. <sup>15</sup>This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but it is worldly, unspiritual, and demonic. <sup>16</sup>In fact, where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and every bad practice. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom that comes from above is first pure, then also peaceful, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, and sincere. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who practice peace.

<sup>4:1</sup>Where do conflicts and quarrels among you come from? Don't they come from your cravings for pleasure, which are at war in the parts of your body? <sup>2</sup>You want something but do not get it, so you murder. You desire something but cannot obtain it, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask, and yet do not receive, because you ask wrongly, so that you may spend it on what gives you pleasure.

<sup>4</sup>Adulterers, don't you know that friendship with the world means hostility toward God? So whoever wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup>Or, do you think that Scripture has no reason for saying that the Spirit, who lives in us, yearns jealously? <sup>6</sup>But he gives greater grace! That is why it says, “God opposes the proud, but he gives grace to the humble.”

<sup>7</sup>So, submit yourselves to God. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Come near to God, and he will come near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded people. <sup>9</sup>Lament, mourn, and weep. Let your laughter be changed into mourning and your joy into gloom. <sup>10</sup>Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will lift you up.

# Holy Gospel

## Mark 9:30–37

<sup>30</sup>They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know this, <sup>31</sup>because he was teaching his disciples. He told them, “The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill him. But three days after he is killed, he will rise.”

<sup>32</sup>But they did not understand the statement and were afraid to ask him about it.

<sup>33</sup>They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” <sup>34</sup>But they remained silent, because on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>Jesus sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, “If anyone wants to be first, he will be the last of all and the servant of all.” <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and placed him in their midst. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me. And whoever welcomes me, welcomes not just me but also him who sent me.”

# Proper 21

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## Old Testament / First Reading

**Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29**

<sup>4</sup>The foreign rabble who were among the Israelites were overcome by their craving. The Israelites also wept once again and said, “Who is going to give us meat to eat? <sup>5</sup>We remember the fish we ate in Egypt free of charge, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic. <sup>6</sup>But now our lives are wasting away. We have nothing at all to look at except this manna.”

<sup>10</sup>Moses heard people from all the clans weeping, each one at the entrance to his own tent. At the same time, the LORD’s anger burned fiercely, and Moses was displeased. <sup>11</sup>Moses said to the LORD, “Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your eyes? Why do you put the burden of all these people on me? <sup>12</sup>Did I conceive all these people by myself? Am I the one who gave birth to them so that you say to me, ‘Carry them in your arms to the land which you swore to their fathers, just as a woman who is nursing carries a baby?’ <sup>13</sup>Where is there meat for me to give to all these people? Listen, they are weeping to me and saying, ‘Give us meat so that we can eat.’ <sup>14</sup>I am not able to carry all these people by myself, because that is too much for me. <sup>15</sup>If you are going to treat me this way, please kill me right now. If I have found favor in your eyes, do not let me see my own ruin.”

<sup>16</sup>So the LORD said to Moses, “Gather seventy men from the elders of Israel for me, men whom you know to be elders and officers for the people. Take them to the Tent of Meeting and make them stand there with you.”

<sup>24</sup>Moses went out and told the people the LORD’s words. He gathered seventy men from the elders of the people and had them stand all around the tent. <sup>25</sup>The LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him. He took from the Spirit that was on Moses and put it on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied, but they did not do it again.

<sup>26</sup>Two men, however, remained in the camp. The name of one was Eldad, and the name of the other was Medad. They were listed among the elders, but they had not gone out to the tent. The Spirit rested on them, and they prophesied back in the camp. <sup>27</sup>A young man ran and reported this to Moses. He said, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp!”

<sup>28</sup>Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ aide from his youth, answered, “My lord Moses, stop them!”

<sup>29</sup>Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? If only all of the LORD’s people were prophets so that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!”

## Epistle / Second Reading

**James 5:(1–12) 13-20**

Come now, you who are rich, weep and cry aloud over the miseries that are going to come upon you. <sup>2</sup>Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. <sup>3</sup>Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have stored up treasure in these last days. <sup>4</sup>Listen, the wages that you failed to pay the workers who reaped your

fields are crying out! And the cries of the harvesters have entered the ears of the Lord of Armies. <sup>5</sup>You have lived for pleasure on the earth and led a life of luxury. You have fattened your hearts on the day of slaughter. <sup>6</sup>You condemned and murdered the Righteous One. Does he not oppose you?

<sup>7</sup>Therefore, brothers, be patient until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the valuable harvest from the ground, patiently waiting for it, until it receives the early and late rain.

<sup>8</sup>You be patient too. Strengthen your hearts because the coming of the Lord is near.

<sup>9</sup>Do not complain about one another, brothers, so that you will not be judged. Look! The Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>Brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of suffering with patient endurance. <sup>11</sup>See, we consider those who endured to be blessed. You have heard of the patient endurance of Job and have seen what the Lord did in the end, because the Lord is especially compassionate and merciful.

<sup>12</sup>Above all, my brothers, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Just let your “yes” be “yes” and your “no” be “no,” so that you do not fall under judgment.

<sup>13</sup>Is anyone among you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone cheerful? He should sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup>Is anyone among you sick? He should call the elders of the church, and they should pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup>And the prayer offered in faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up. If he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup>So confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, in order that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is able to do much because it is effective. <sup>17</sup>Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. <sup>18</sup>Then he prayed again, and the sky gave rain, and the land produced its harvest.

<sup>19</sup>My brothers, if anyone among you wanders away from the truth and someone turns him back, <sup>20</sup>let it be known that the one who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

## Holy Gospel

### Mark 9:38–50

<sup>38</sup>John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name. We tried to stop him, because he was not following us.”

<sup>39</sup>But Jesus said, “Do not try to stop him, because no one who does a miracle in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil about me. <sup>40</sup>Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup>Amen I tell you: Whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in my name, because you belong to Christ, will certainly not lose his reward.

<sup>42</sup>“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to fall into sin, it would be better for him if he were thrown into the sea with a large millstone hung around his neck. <sup>43</sup>If your hand causes you to fall into sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed, than to have two hands and go into hell, into the unquenchable fire, <sup>44</sup>‘where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’ <sup>45</sup>If your foot causes you to fall into sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell, <sup>46</sup>‘where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’ <sup>47</sup>If your eye causes you to fall into sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup>‘where their worm

does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’<sup>49</sup>For everyone will be salted with fire.<sup>50</sup>Salt is good. But if the salt loses its flavor, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

# Proper 22

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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Genesis 2:18–25

<sup>18</sup>The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is a suitable partner for him.” <sup>19</sup>Out of the soil the LORD God had formed every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them. Whatever the man called every living creature, that became its name. <sup>20</sup>The man gave names to all the livestock, and to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal, but for Adam no helper was found who was a suitable partner for him. <sup>21</sup>The LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. As the man slept, the LORD God took a rib and closed up the flesh where it had been. <sup>22</sup>The LORD God built a woman from the rib that he had taken from the man and brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup>The man said,

Now this one is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh.

She will be called “woman,”  
because she was taken out of man.

<sup>24</sup>For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother  
and will remain united with his wife,  
and they will become one flesh.

<sup>25</sup>They were both naked, the man and his wife, and they were not ashamed.

## Epistle / Second Reading

### Hebrews 2:1–13 (14-18)

Therefore, we need to pay even more attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. <sup>2</sup>For if the message that was spoken through angels was valid, and every transgression and disobedient act received a just punishment, <sup>3</sup>how will we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? First the message was spoken by the Lord; then it was confirmed to us by those who heard him. <sup>4</sup>God also testified to it with signs and wonders, various miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his will.

<sup>5</sup>For God did not place the coming world, about which we are speaking, under the control of angels. <sup>6</sup>But there is a place where someone has testified:

What is man that you remember him,  
or the Son of Man that you look after him?

<sup>7</sup>You made him lower than the angels for a little while.

You crowned him with glory and honor.

<sup>8</sup>You put everything in subjection under his feet.

Indeed, in putting everything in subjection to him, God left nothing that is not in subjection to him. At the present time, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. <sup>9</sup>But we look to Jesus

(the one who was made lower than the angels for a little while, so that by God's grace he might taste death for everyone), now crowned with glory and honor, because he suffered death.

<sup>10</sup>Certainly it was fitting for God (the one for whom and through whom everything exists), in leading many sons to glory, to bring the author of their salvation to his goal through sufferings. <sup>11</sup>For he who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified all have one Father. For that reason, he is not ashamed to call them brothers. <sup>12</sup>He says:

I will declare your name to my brothers.

Within the congregation I will sing your praise.

<sup>13</sup>And again:

I will trust in him.

And again:

Here I am and the children God has given me.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, since the children share flesh and blood, he also shared the same flesh and blood, so that through death he could destroy the one who had the power of death (that is, the Devil) <sup>15</sup>and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup>For surely he was not concerned with helping angels but with helping Abraham's offspring. <sup>17</sup>For this reason, he had to become like his brothers in every way, in order that he would be a merciful and faithful high priest in the things pertaining to God, so that he could pay for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>Indeed, because he suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

## Holy Gospel

### Mark 10:2–16

<sup>2</sup>Some Pharisees came to test him and asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"

<sup>3</sup>He replied, "What did Moses command you?"

<sup>4</sup>They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away."

<sup>5</sup>But Jesus told them, "He wrote this command for you because of your hard hearts. <sup>6</sup>But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. <sup>7</sup>For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, <sup>8</sup>and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh. <sup>9</sup>Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate."

<sup>10</sup>In the house his disciples asked him about this again. <sup>11</sup>He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. <sup>12</sup>If she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

<sup>13</sup>Some people began bringing little children to Jesus so that he would touch them. But the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup>When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said, "Let the little children come to me! Do not hinder them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>15</sup>Amen I tell you: Whoever will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." <sup>16</sup>And he took the little children in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

# Proper 23

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## Old Testament / First Reading

**Amos 5:6-7, 10-15**

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD and live,  
or he will rush upon the house of Joseph like fire.  
The fire will consume, and no one will extinguish it for Bethel.  
<sup>7</sup>There are some who turn justice into wormwood,  
who throw righteousness to the ground.  
<sup>10</sup>There are those who hate an arbitrator in the city gate.  
They despise anyone who speaks honestly.  
<sup>11</sup>That is why you trample on the poor,  
and you collect taxes on their grain.  
You have built houses of cut stones,  
but you will not live in them.  
You have planted choice vineyards,  
but you will not drink their wine.  
<sup>12</sup>For I know that your rebellious deeds are many,  
and your sins are numerous,  
you who are enemies of a righteous man,  
you who take bribes.  
They thrust away needy people in the city gate.  
<sup>13</sup>That is why a prudent man will be silent in that time,  
because it is an evil time.  
<sup>14</sup>Seek good and not evil, so that you may live,  
and then it will be like this for you:  
The LORD, the God of Armies, will be with you, as you claim.  
<sup>15</sup>Hate evil and love good.  
Establish justice in the city gate.  
Perhaps the LORD, the God of Armies,  
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

## Epistle / Second Reading

**Hebrews 3:12–19**

<sup>12</sup>Watch out, brothers, so that there is not an evil, unbelieving heart in any of you that turns away from the living God. <sup>13</sup>But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “today,” so that none of you are hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. <sup>14</sup>For we have become people who share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firmly until the end. <sup>15</sup>As it is said:

Today, if you hear his voice,

do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.

<sup>16</sup>Who was it who heard and rebelled? Wasn't it all those who left Egypt, led by Moses? <sup>17</sup>And with whom was God angry for forty years? Surely it was with the ones who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness, wasn't it? <sup>18</sup>And about whom did he swear an oath that they would not enter his rest, if it wasn't concerning those who were disobedient? <sup>19</sup>So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.

## Holy Gospel

### Mark 10:17–27

<sup>17</sup>As Jesus was setting out on a journey, one man ran up to him and knelt in front of him. He asked, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

<sup>18</sup>Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except one—God. <sup>19</sup>You know the commandments. ‘You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony. You shall not defraud. Honor your father and mother.’”

<sup>20</sup>The man replied, “Teacher, I have kept all these since I was a child.”

<sup>21</sup>Jesus looked at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack. Go, sell whatever you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

<sup>22</sup>When he heard this, he looked sad and went away grieving, because he had great wealth. <sup>23</sup>Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!”

<sup>24</sup>The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus told them again, “Children, how hard it is for those who trust in their riches to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

<sup>26</sup>They were even more astonished and said to one another, “Who then can be saved?”

<sup>27</sup>Jesus looked at them and said, “For people, it is impossible, but not for God, because all things are possible for God.”

# Proper 24

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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

<sup>10</sup>Anyone who loves money is never satisfied with money, and anyone who loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is vanishing vapor.

<sup>11</sup>When goods increase, so do those who eat them. What profit, then, does the owner get, except to see these things with his eyes?

<sup>12</sup>The worker's sleep is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but a rich person's abundant possessions allow him no sleep.

<sup>13</sup>I have seen a sickening evil under the sun—wealth hoarded by its owner to his own harm, <sup>14</sup>or wealth that is lost in a bad investment. Or a man fathers a son, but he has nothing left in his hand to give him. <sup>15</sup>As he came out from his mother's womb, so he will go again, naked as he came. From his hard work he can pick up nothing that he can carry away in his hand. <sup>16</sup>This too is a sickening evil: Just as he came, so he will go. So what does he gain, he who works for the wind? <sup>17</sup>Besides this, during all his days he eats in darkness, with great frustration, sickness, and anger.

<sup>18</sup>So then, here is what I have seen to be good: It is beautiful to eat, to drink, and to look for good in all a person's hard work which he has done under the sun, during the few days of his life that God has given him, for that is his reward. <sup>19</sup>Likewise, for everyone to whom God has given wealth and riches, if God has also given him ability to eat from it, to enjoy his reward, and to rejoice in the results of his hard work—this is a gift of God, <sup>20</sup>for the man seldom reflects on the days of his life, since God keeps him busy with the joy in his heart.

## Epistle / Second Reading

### Hebrews 4:1–13 (14-16)

Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be fearful that any one of you may be judged to have failed to reach it. <sup>2</sup>In fact, we have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did. But the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united in faith with those who did listen. <sup>3</sup>Indeed, we who believe are going to enter his rest.

It happened just as he vowed when he said:

So I swore an oath in my wrath,  
“They will never enter my rest.”

And yet his works have been finished since the creation of the world. <sup>4</sup>For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in this way:

And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.

<sup>5</sup>And again in this statement:

They will never enter my rest.

<sup>6</sup>Therefore, since it is still the case that some do enter this rest, and yet those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not enter because of disobedience, <sup>7</sup>God again set a certain day, namely, “today,” when he later said through David, as quoted before:

Today, if you hear his voice,  
do not harden your hearts.

<sup>8</sup>For, if Joshua had given them rest, then God would not have spoken later about another day.

<sup>9</sup>So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. <sup>10</sup>For the one who enters God’s rest also rests from his own work, just as God rested from his work. <sup>11</sup>Therefore, let us make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall into the same pattern of disobedience.

<sup>12</sup>For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It penetrates even to the point of dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow, even being able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart. <sup>13</sup>And there is no creature hidden from him, but everything is uncovered and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we will give an account.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, since we have a great high priest, who has gone through the heavens, namely, Jesus the Son of God, let us continue to hold on to our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet was without sin. <sup>16</sup>So let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

## Holy Gospel

### Mark 10:23–31

<sup>23</sup>Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!”

<sup>24</sup>The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus told them again, “Children, how hard it is for those who trust in their riches to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

<sup>26</sup>They were even more astonished and said to one another, “Who then can be saved?”

<sup>27</sup>Jesus looked at them and said, “For people, it is impossible, but not for God, because all things are possible for God.”

<sup>28</sup>Peter began to say to him, “See, we have left everything and followed you.”

<sup>29</sup>Jesus said, “Amen I tell you: There is no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the gospel, <sup>30</sup>who now at this time will fail to receive one hundred times as much: houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and fields (along with persecutions)—and in the coming age: eternal life. <sup>31</sup>But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

# Proper 25

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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Jeremiah 31:7-9

<sup>7</sup>This is what the LORD says.

Sing with joy for Jacob,  
and shout for the greatest of the nations.

Make your praises heard and say,

“LORD, save your people,  
the remnant of Israel!”

<sup>8</sup>Watch, I will bring them from a land in the north  
and gather them from the ends of the earth.

The blind and the lame will be there,  
the pregnant woman together with the woman in labor.

They will return as a huge community.

<sup>9</sup>They will come weeping.

They will pray as I bring them back.

I will lead them beside streams of water,  
on a level path where they will not stumble.

For I am a father to Israel.

Ephraim is my firstborn.

## Epistle / Second Reading

### Hebrews 7:23–28

<sup>23</sup>There were many who became priests because death prevented any of them from continuing to remain in office. <sup>24</sup>But because this one endures forever, he has a permanent priesthood. <sup>25</sup>So for this reason he is able to save forever those who come to God through him, because he always lives to plead on their behalf.

<sup>26</sup>This is certainly the kind of high priest we needed: one who is holy, innocent, pure, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. <sup>27</sup>Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices on a daily basis, first for his own sins and then for the sins of the people. In fact, he sacrificed for sins once and for all when he offered himself. <sup>28</sup>For the law appoints as high priests men who have weaknesses. But the word of the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been brought to his goal forever.

# Holy Gospel

## Mark 10:46–52

<sup>46</sup>They came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, a blind man, Bartimaeus the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the road begging. <sup>47</sup>When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>48</sup>Many told him to be quiet, but he kept shouting all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

<sup>49</sup>Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

They called the blind man, saying, “Cheer up! Get up. He is calling you!”

<sup>50</sup>He tossed aside his outer garment, jumped up, and went to Jesus.

<sup>51</sup>“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.

The blind man replied, “*Rabboni*, I want to see again.”

<sup>52</sup>Jesus told him, “Go. Your faith has made you well.” Immediately he received his sight and began following Jesus on the road.

# Proper 26

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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Deuteronomy 6:1–9

Moses spoke as follows:

Now this is the body of commands, and these are the statutes and the ordinances that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, so you may carry them out in the land to which you are crossing over to receive as a possession, <sup>2</sup>so that you may fear the LORD your God by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I am commanding you, as well as to your children and grandchildren, all the days of your life, and so that your days may be long.

<sup>3</sup>Listen, O Israel, and be conscientious about doing those things, so it may go well for you and so you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you. <sup>4</sup>Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God. The LORD is one! <sup>5</sup>Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup>These words that I am commanding you today are to be on your heart. <sup>7</sup>Teach them diligently to your children, and speak about them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup>Tie them as a sign on your wrists, and they will serve as symbols on your forehead. <sup>9</sup>Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

## Epistle / Second Reading

### Hebrews 9:11–14 (15-22)

<sup>11</sup>But when Christ appeared as the high priest of the good things that were coming, he went through the greater and more complete tent, which was not made by human hands (that is, it is not part of this creation). <sup>12</sup>He entered once into the Most Holy Place and obtained eternal redemption, not by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood. <sup>13</sup>Now if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkled on those who were unclean, sanctifies them so that their flesh is clean, <sup>14</sup>how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works, so that we worship the living God?

<sup>15</sup>For this reason, he is the mediator of a new covenant. A death took place as payment for the trespasses committed under the first covenant, so that those who are called would receive the promised eternal inheritance. <sup>16</sup>For where a will exists, it is necessary to establish the death of the one who made the will. <sup>17</sup>For a will takes effect at the time of death, since it is never in force when the one who made the will is still living.

<sup>18</sup>For this reason, the first covenant was not ratified without blood. <sup>19</sup>Indeed, after every command was spoken by Moses to all the people, in accordance with the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water and scarlet wool and a hyssop branch, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people. <sup>20</sup>He said, “This is the blood of the covenant that God established for you.” <sup>21</sup>In the same way he sprinkled blood on the tent and all the objects for worship. <sup>22</sup>And nearly everything is cleansed with blood according to the law. And, without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.

# Holy Gospel

## Mark 12:28–37

<sup>28</sup>One of the experts in the law approached after he heard their discussion. When he saw that Jesus had answered them well, he asked Jesus, “Which commandment is the greatest of all?”

<sup>29</sup>Jesus answered, “The most important is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord, our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup>You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup>The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

<sup>32</sup>The expert in the law said to him, “Well said, teacher. You have spoken correctly on the basis of the truth that he is one, and there is no other besides him. <sup>33</sup>To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself, is more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

<sup>34</sup>When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

<sup>35</sup>While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he responded by saying, “How is it that the experts in the law say that the Christ is the Son of David? <sup>36</sup>David himself said by the Holy Spirit: The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies a footstool under your feet.’

<sup>37</sup>“David himself calls him Lord, so how can he be his son?” The large crowd listened to him with delight.

# Proper 27

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## Old Testament / First Reading

### 1 Kings 17:8-16

<sup>8</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to him: <sup>9</sup>“Get up! Go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there. I have commanded a woman there, a widow, to provide for you.”

<sup>10</sup>So he got up and went to Zarephath. He came to the city gate, and there he saw a widow gathering sticks. He called to her and said, “Please give me a little water in a jar, so that I can have something to drink.”

<sup>11</sup>When she went to get it, he called to her, “Please bring me a piece of bread.”

<sup>12</sup>She said, “As surely as the LORD your God lives, I have no food except a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a pitcher. See, I am gathering a couple of sticks so that I can go and prepare it for myself and my son, so that we can eat it and then die.”

<sup>13</sup>Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid. Go and do just as you said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from the flour and bring it out to me. Then go and make another for you and your son. <sup>14</sup>For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says. The jar of flour will not run out and the pitcher of oil will not become empty until the day the LORD sends rain to water the surface of the ground.”

<sup>15</sup>So she went and did exactly as Elijah said. He and she, as well as her household, were able to eat for many days. <sup>16</sup>The jar of flour did not run out, and the pitcher of oil did not become empty, just as the LORD had said through Elijah.

## Epistle / Second Reading

### Hebrews 9:24–28

<sup>24</sup>For Christ did not enter a handmade sanctuary, a representation of the true sanctuary. Instead, he entered into heaven itself, now to appear before God on our behalf. <sup>25</sup>And he did not enter to offer himself many times, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own. <sup>26</sup>Otherwise he would have needed to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once and for all, at the climax of the ages, in order to take away sin by the sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup>And, just as it is appointed for people to die only once and after this comes the judgment, <sup>28</sup>so also Christ was offered only once to take away the sins of many, and he will appear a second time—without sin—to bring salvation to those who are eagerly waiting for him.

## Holy Gospel

### Mark 12:38–44

<sup>38</sup>He also said to them in his teaching, “Beware of the experts in the law who like to walk around in long robes and receive greetings in the marketplaces. <sup>39</sup>They love the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. <sup>40</sup>They devour widows’ houses and offer long prayers to look good. These men will receive greater condemnation.”

<sup>41</sup>Jesus sat down opposite the offering box and was watching how the crowd put money into it. Many rich people put in large amounts. <sup>42</sup>One poor widow came and put in two small bronze coins, worth less than a penny. <sup>43</sup>He called his disciples together and said to them, “Amen I tell you: This poor widow put more into the offering box than all the others. <sup>44</sup>For they all gave out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all that she had to live on.”

# Proper 28

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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Daniel 12:1-3

Then at that time, Michael, the great prince who stands over your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress that has not happened from the first time that there was a nation until that time.

At that time your people will be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. <sup>2</sup>Many who are sleeping in the dusty ground will awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame, to everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup>Those who have insight will shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who bring many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever and ever.

## Epistle / Second Reading

### Hebrews 10:11–25

<sup>11</sup>In the one case, every priest stood ministering day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which are never able to remove sin. <sup>12</sup>In the other case, this priest, after he offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God. <sup>13</sup>Since then he has been waiting until his enemies are made a footstool under his feet. <sup>14</sup>By only one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being sanctified.

<sup>15</sup>The Holy Spirit also testifies in Scripture to us, for first he said:

<sup>16</sup>This is the covenant I will make with them  
after those days, says the Lord.  
I will put my laws on their hearts  
and I will write them on their mind.

<sup>17</sup>Then he adds:

And I will not remember their sins and their lawlessness any longer.

<sup>18</sup>Now where these sins are forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.

<sup>19</sup>Brothers, we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place through the blood of Jesus. <sup>20</sup>It is a new and living way he opened for us through the curtain, that is, his flesh. <sup>21</sup>We also have a great priest over the house of God. <sup>22</sup>So let us approach with a sincere heart, in the full confidence of faith, because our hearts have been sprinkled to take away a bad conscience, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold on firmly to the confession of our hope without wavering, since he who promised is faithful.

<sup>24</sup>Let us also consider carefully how to spur each other on to love and good works. <sup>25</sup>Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have the habit of doing. Rather, let us encourage each other, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

# Holy Gospel

## Mark 13:1–13

As Jesus was leaving the temple courts, one of his disciples said to him, “Teacher, look what impressive stones these are, and what impressive buildings!”

<sup>2</sup>Jesus said to him, “Do you see these large buildings? There will not be one stone here left on top of another. They will all be thrown down.”

<sup>3</sup>As he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, <sup>4</sup>“Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be fulfilled?”

<sup>5</sup>Jesus began by telling them, “Be careful that no one deceives you. <sup>6</sup>Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he,’ and will deceive many.

<sup>7</sup>“Whenever you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled. Such things must happen, but the end is not yet. <sup>8</sup>In fact, nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places. There will be famines. These are the beginning of birth pains. <sup>9</sup>But be on your guard! People will hand you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues. You will stand in the presence of rulers and kings for my sake as a witness to them. <sup>10</sup>And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations. <sup>11</sup>Whenever they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand what you should say. Say whatever is given to you in that hour, because you will not be the ones speaking; instead it will be the Holy Spirit.

<sup>12</sup>“Brother will betray brother to death, and a father, his child. Children will rise up against their parents and put them to death. <sup>13</sup>You will be hated by everyone because of my name, but the one who endures to the end will be saved.”

# Proper 29

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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Isaiah 51:4-6

<sup>4</sup>Pay attention to me, O my people.  
My nation, listen to me!  
For the law will go out from me,  
and I will establish my justice as a light to the peoples.  
<sup>5</sup>My righteousness is near.  
My salvation goes forth,  
and my arms will bring justice to the peoples.  
The seacoasts will wait for me.  
They will have confidence in my arm.  
<sup>6</sup>Lift up your eyes to the heavens.  
Look closely at the earth beneath,  
because the heavens will vanish like smoke,  
and the earth will wear out like a garment,  
and its inhabitants will die like gnats.  
But my salvation will remain forever,  
and my righteousness will never be abolished.

*Or*

### Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

<sup>9</sup>I continued to watch until thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days was seated. His clothing was white as snow, and the hair on his head was like pure wool. His throne was flames of fire. Its wheels were blazing fire. <sup>10</sup>A river of fire flowed out from his presence. Thousands upon thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and books were opened.

<sup>13</sup>I kept watching the night visions, and there, in the clouds of heaven, I saw one like a son of man coming. He came to the Ancient of Days, and he was brought before him. <sup>14</sup>To him was given dominion, honor, and a kingdom. All peoples, nations, and languages will worship him. His dominion is an eternal dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.

## Epistle / Second Reading

### Jude 20–25

<sup>20</sup>But you, dear friends, continue to build yourselves up in your most holy faith as you keep praying in the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>Keep yourselves in God's love as you continue to wait for the mercy of

our Lord Jesus Christ, which results in eternal life. <sup>22</sup>Show mercy to those who are wavering. <sup>23</sup>Save others by snatching them out of the fire. Show mercy to still others with fear, hating even the clothing that is stained by the flesh.

<sup>24</sup>Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you faultless in the presence of his glory with great joy, <sup>25</sup>to the only God, our Savior, be glory, majesty, power, and authority through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all time, now, and to all eternity. Amen.

*Or*

### **Revelation 1:4b–8**

Grace to you and peace from him who is, who was, and who is coming, and from the seven spirits that are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his own blood <sup>6</sup>and made us a kingdom and priests to God his Father—to him be the glory and the power forever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup>Look, he is coming with clouds,  
and every eye will see him,  
including those who pierced him.

And all the nations of the earth will mourn because of him.

Yes. Amen.

<sup>8</sup>“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, the one who is, and who was, and who is coming, the Almighty.

## **Holy Gospel**

### **Mark 13:24–37**

<sup>24</sup>“But after that distress in those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light. <sup>25</sup>The stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>Then you will see the Son of Man coming on clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>At that time he will send out his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of the sky.

<sup>28</sup>“Learn from this illustration of the fig tree: Whenever its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also when you see these things happening, you will know that he is near—at the doors! <sup>30</sup>Amen I tell you: This generation will certainly not pass away until all these things happen. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

<sup>32</sup>“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Watch! Be alert and pray, because you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going away on a journey. When he left his home, he put his servants in charge and assigned what each one was to do. He also commanded the doorkeeper to keep watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore keep watch, because you do not know when the owner of the house is coming: whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or early in the morning. <sup>36</sup>If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup>What I say to you, I say to everyone: Keep watch!”

*Or*

**John 18:33–37**

<sup>33</sup>Pilate went back into the Praetorium and summoned Jesus. He asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, “Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you about me?”

<sup>35</sup>Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?”

<sup>36</sup>Jesus replied, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight so that I would not be handed over to the Jews. But now my kingdom is not from here.”

<sup>37</sup>“You are a king then?” Pilate asked.

Jesus answered, “I am, as you say, a king. For this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”