

February 13 2022

The Lessons

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

Jer 17:5-10

Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse -- who can understand it?

I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The psalm for this morning is 1. It can be found in your bulletin and in your prayer books on page XX. Let us read it responsively by half verse. *Psalm 1*

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

Their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and they meditate on his law day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water,
**bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.**

It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ -- whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Luke 6:17-26

Jesus came down with the twelve apostles and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

God of Light and Life, our prayers rise before you this day in hope and faith.

As God spoke to Jeremiah, “Blessed are those who trust in the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream”; empower your Church to bring out the Good News of the Light of your son Jesus, which pierces even the deepest darkness.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As a star rose high into the nighttime sky to draw the nations to the Christ-child; send your blessing on this nation and draw the whole world to your peace and truth.

As John the Baptist guided throngs of people to the edge of the wilderness and baptized Jesus in the River Jordan, we pray that you would guide our country and our leaders to the ways of justice and righteousness.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As Jesus climbed the mountaintop, and proclaimed blessings on the people of the world; especially the sick and the distressed, the poor and those who mourn, we pray especially for Downs IV, Holden, Brian and Jean. Grant healing and recovery for Beverly, Bill and BJ. Give peace and strength for those going through cancer treatments, especially Jane, Downs III, Victoria, Alex, Connie and Douglas. Visit and comfort all who are under the care of skilled nursing, especially Timothy, Barbara and Kim. Be near to all who are in hospice care.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As the psalmist declared, Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; you are my crag and my stronghold; we pray for all who protect us both at home and abroad and that you may bless our communities, and the whole world, with your peace.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As Jesus called his disciples to leave their nets and boats, and follow him; we pray for those we love and who have answered your call to follow Jesus to your Heavenly Kingdom. Give them your peace and comfort all who mourn.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, Light of the World, hear our prayers, and make us reflections of your Light, that the places of darkness in our world would be pierced by your Light, and that all nations would be drawn to you and be overwhelmed with joy. **Amen.**

We pray to you for the forgiveness of our sins.

Leader and People

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**