

Sunday, June 20, 2010  
Lectionary 12  
Proper 7  
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
Holy Communion

Worship Assistants

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 65:1-9**

A reading from \_\_\_\_\_.

*The prophet announces God's impatience. The people's self absorption is idolatry, and images from pagan worship fill this reading. Like a vintner who crushes the grape to release the wine, God will use Israel's exile to establish a new community of the faithful.*

I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask,  
to be found by those who did not seek me.  
I said, "Here I am, here I am,"  
to a nation that did not call on my name.  
<sup>2</sup>I held out my hands all day long  
to a rebellious people,  
who walk in a way that is not good,  
following their own devices;  
<sup>3</sup>a people who provoke me  
to my face continually,  
sacrificing in gardens  
and offering incense on bricks;  
<sup>4</sup>who sit inside tombs,  
and spend the night in secret places;  
who eat swine's flesh,  
with broth of abominable things in their vessels;  
<sup>5</sup>who say, "Keep to yourself,  
do not come near me, for I am too holy for you."  
These are a smoke in my nostrils,  
a fire that burns all day long.  
<sup>6</sup>See, it is written before me:  
I will not keep silent, but I will repay;  
I will indeed repay into their laps  
<sup>7</sup>their iniquities and their ancestors' iniquities together,  
says the LORD;  
because they offered incense on the mountains  
and reviled me on the hills,  
I will measure into their laps  
full payment for their actions.

<sup>8</sup>Thus says the LORD:

As the wine is found in the cluster,  
and they say, "Do not destroy it,  
for there is a blessing in it,"  
so I will do for my servants' sake,  
and not destroy them all.

<sup>9</sup>I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,  
and from Judah inheritors of my mountains;  
my chosen shall inherit it,  
and my servants shall settle there.\

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 22:19–28**

*Refrain: In the midst of the assembly I will praise you. (Ps. 22:22)*

<sup>19</sup>But you, O LORD, be not <sup>1</sup> far away;  
O my help, hasten <sup>1</sup> to my aid.

<sup>20</sup>**Deliver me <sup>1</sup> from the sword,  
my life from the power <sup>1</sup> of the dog.**

<sup>21</sup>Save me from the <sup>1</sup> lion's mouth!  
From the horns of wild bulls you have <sup>1</sup> rescued me.

<sup>22</sup>**I will declare your name <sup>1</sup> to my people;  
in the midst of the assembly <sup>1</sup> I will praise you. R**

<sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's <sup>1</sup> line, give glory.  
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- <sup>1</sup> spring of Israel.

<sup>24</sup>**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the  
LORD's face hid- <sup>1</sup> den from them;  
but when they cry out, <sup>1</sup> the LORD hears them.**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the <sup>1</sup> great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who <sup>1</sup> fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat <sup>1</sup> and be satisfied.  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts <sup>1</sup> live forever! R**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn <sup>1</sup> to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow <sup>1</sup> before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs <sup>1</sup> to the LORD,  
who rules o- <sup>1</sup> ver the nations. R**

**SECOND READING: Galatians 3:23–29**

A reading from \_\_\_\_\_.

*For Paul, baptism is a powerful bond that unites people not only with God but with other believers. Those who call themselves children of God experience a transformation that removes prejudices of race, social class, or gender in favor of true unity in Christ.*

<sup>23</sup>Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup>Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, <sup>26</sup>for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. <sup>27</sup>As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL: Luke 8:26–39**

The holy gospel according to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus' mission includes foreigners, and his authority extends to the casting out of demons. Some who witness Jesus' work are seized with confusion and fear, but the man who was healed is commissioned to give testimony of God's mercy and power.*

<sup>26</sup>Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. <sup>27</sup>As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. <sup>28</sup>When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me" — <sup>29</sup>for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) <sup>30</sup>Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. <sup>31</sup>They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

<sup>32</sup>Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. <sup>33</sup>Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

<sup>34</sup>When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. <sup>35</sup>Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. <sup>36</sup>Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. <sup>37</sup>Then all the people of the surrounding country of

the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. <sup>38</sup>The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, <sup>39</sup>Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you. So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Gathered together as God's people in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Almighty God of promise, you have established a large family through your Son, Jesus. Send your children into the world preaching good news of salvation and welcoming home lost sisters and brothers. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You have made all creatures with care. Bless pet owners, farmers, animal rescue workers, veterinarians, and all who care for animals. Help us extend your love to all inhabitants of your creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You give hope to the captive and set the prisoners free. Be present in the lives of all who are imprisoned, guiding them to paths of reconciliation with those they have harmed. Restore the lives of all people affected by crime. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You give direction to those who are lost. Lessen confusion for those who live with mental illnesses, and provide clarity for all people in need (*especially*). Make us all whole by your healing touch. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You give humankind a model for parental care. Raise up fathers to cherish children, and give them joy in their work. Send loving role models to children who do not know a nurturing father, that your love and care may abound. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You sent the Word made flesh to speak to people in time of greatest need. Make gospel stories speak to the stories of people in crisis and despair, that they may know the joy of the saints. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

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