

Sunday, August 15, 2010
Lectionary 20
Proper 15
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion

Worship Assistants

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23–29

A reading from _____.

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

²³Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" ²⁶How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back — those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 82

Refrain: Arise, O God, and rule the earth. (Ps. 82:8)

¹God stands to charge the divine council assembled,
giving judgment in the midst ¹ of the gods:

**²"How long will you ¹ judge unjustly,
and show favor ¹ to the wicked?"**

³Save the weak ¹ and the orphan;
defend the hum- ¹ ble and needy;

**⁴rescue the weak ¹ and the poor;
deliver them from the power ¹ of the wicked. R**

⁵They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander a- ¹ bout in darkness;

all the foundations of the ¹ earth are shaken.
⁶Now I say to you, ¹ 'You are gods,
and all of you children of ¹ the Most High;
⁷nevertheless, you shall ¹ die like mortals,
and fall like ¹ any prince."
⁸Arise, O God, and ¹ rule the earth,
for you shall take all nations ¹ for your own. R

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:29—12:2

A reading from _____.

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

Chapter 11

²⁹By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³²And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets — ³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented — ³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Chapter 12

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 12:49–56

The holy gospel according to _____.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

⁴⁹I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Empower your church to be faithful to Jesus, the perfecter of our faith, especially in the face of persecution. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Restore your creation, especially deserts and places of hot winds and scorching heat. Keep safe

firefighters and all who work to put out flames and save those in danger. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Raise up just and fair leaders, for all the nations belong to you. Quench the raging fire of war and conflict, and bring your peace to this earth. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Give justice to the weak and the orphaned. Bring dignity to the poor and needy. Heal the sick (*especially*), that they may know your joy. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Strengthen all families in this congregation, that father and son, mother and daughter may be united in their love for you and service to others. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In thanksgiving we praise you for the great cloud of witnesses who have run with perseverance the race of faithfulness and are now joined with you in glory (*especially Mary, the mother of Jesus*). Grant us the same strength to live by faith. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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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