

Sunday, September 12, 2010  
Lectionary 24  
Proper 19  
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Holy Communion

Worship Assistants

**FIRST READING: Exodus 32:7–14**

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

*While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people and boldly asks mercy for them.*

<sup>7</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; <sup>8</sup>they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" <sup>9</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup>Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

<sup>11</sup>But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup>Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people.

<sup>13</sup>Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" <sup>14</sup>And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 51:1–10**

*Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)*

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your <sup>1</sup>steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out <sup>1</sup>my offenses.

**<sup>2</sup>Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me | from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know | my offenses,  
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

**<sup>4</sup>Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment. R**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

**<sup>6</sup>Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

**<sup>8</sup>Let me hear | joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face | from my sins,  
and blot out | all my wickedness.

**<sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean | heart, O God,  
and renew a right spir- | it within me. R**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 1:12–17**

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

*The letters to Timothy are called the Pastoral Epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.*

<sup>12</sup>I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, <sup>13</sup>even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup>and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup>The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners — of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup>But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup>To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: Luke 15:1–10**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that his or her recovery brings joy in heaven.*

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup>Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup>And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' <sup>7</sup>Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup>Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup>When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' <sup>10</sup>Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

God hears the cry of the poor and is near to all in need. Let us pray for our neighbors, our world, and ourselves, trusting in God's mercy and love.

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, you fulfilled the promise made to our mothers and fathers in Jesus, our brother. Guide your church in its ministry of extending your promise of life to the whole world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all goodness, your Spirit sustains the universe, from the stars of heaven to the deepest sea. We pray that our exploration of the expanses of your creation always honors its creator. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all people, your patience is revealed in your mercy toward us, even when we turn aside from your ways. We pray for all world leaders, that they might be guided in your way of peace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all healing, the pain we feel is also felt in your wounded heart. We pray for all who long for joy and gladness in the midst of sickness of mind, body, or spirit (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all welcome, your Son opened himself to those whom society rejected. We pray for our ministries of hospitality, that this congregation may be a place of sanctuary for all people. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all time, immortal and invisible, our lives are held in your safekeeping. We bless you for (*name/s and all*) our sisters and brothers whose lives were examples to us of your mercy and love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

All this we ask, gracious God, together with all that is known to you alone, in the name of your risen and anointed Son, through the power of your life-giving Spirit.

**Amen.**

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