

Readings for Sunday, August 16, 2020 The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost



AS WE GATHER

The African American spiritual “Give Me Jesus” begins “In the morning when I rise, Give me Jesus,” words that remind us that our Savior, Jesus, is with us at all times. The same truth is expressed in another hymn in which English hymnist Timothy Dudley-Smith writes: “Christ be my Leader by night as by day; Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.” Jesus Christ, whom we confess in the Creed, is always there to comfort and to guide us. Our songs of praise, whether new to us or old favorites, can well express our thanksgiving for His loving care.

Old Testament Reading, *Isaiah 56:1, 6–8* (God’s house of prayer is for all people.)

¹Thus says the Lord:

“Keep justice, and do righteousness,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed. . . .

⁶“And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,
everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it,
and holds fast my covenant—

⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.”

⁸The Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares,
“I will gather yet others to him
besides those already gathered.”

Epistle Reading, *Romans 11:1–2a, 13–15, 28–32*

(God will have mercy on both Jew and Gentile.)

¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. . . .

¹³Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry ¹⁴in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. ¹⁵For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? . . .

²⁸As regards the gospel, they are enemies of God for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. ²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. ³²For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

Holy Gospel, *Matthew 15:21–28*

(Jesus heals the daughter of a beseeching woman.)

²¹Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.” ²³But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying out after us.” ²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶And he answered, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.