

## Readings for Sunday, July 5, 2020 The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost



### AS WE GATHER

Paul is talking to himself in today's Epistle, for although he knows what's right, he finds it virtually impossible to do. That's because he (and all of us) have this sickness called sin, for which we ourselves have no antidote. Worse, it keeps producing evil symptoms in our thoughts, words, and deeds. As a result, we are both sick in spirit and tired from struggling. Zechariah foresaw the solution; we can see his prophecy fulfilled as Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, there to die for us and rise victorious. In the Gospel, our Lord thanks our heavenly Father for revealing to us that He is indeed the One we need to overcome our sickness of sin. Indeed, thanks to our Savior, as David penned in the psalm, that when people call out to Him, God hears their cry and saves them.

### Old Testament Reading, *Zechariah 9:9-12*

(Through the prophet, the Lord promises an end to spiritual warfare.)

<sup>9</sup>Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
behold, your king is coming to you;  
righteous and having salvation is he,  
humble and mounted on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup>I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
and the war horse from Jerusalem;  
and the battle bow shall be cut off,  
and he shall speak peace to the nations;  
his rule shall be from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

<sup>11</sup>As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,  
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

<sup>12</sup>Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;  
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

### **Epistle Reading, *Romans 7:14-25a***

(Unable to stop sinning, Paul finds deliverance only in Jesus Christ.)

<sup>14</sup>We know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. <sup>15</sup>I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. <sup>17</sup>So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. <sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup>So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup>For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, <sup>23</sup>but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup>Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

### **Holy Gospel, *Matthew 11:25-30***

(Jesus invites His hearers to come to Him for true rest.)

<sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. <sup>28</sup>Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."