

Readings for September 10, 2023
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Collect for the Day: O Lord of hosts, our refuge and strength, our present help in trouble: according to your great mercy, lift us to your presence where, without fear, we may be still and know that you are God. Though the earth be moved, and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea; though the waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble at its tumult; be with us O Lord of hosts, be our stronghold, O Lord our God; make the storms to cease, calm the winds, still the waves that we may look upon your works to see the awesome things you have done on earth, that you may be exalted among the nations. Grant this for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reader: The Old Testament reading is taken from Ezekiel 33:1-11. (*Ezekiel Is Israel's Watchman*)

33 The word of the LORD came to me: ²“Son of man, speak to your people and say to them, If I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from among them, and make him their watchman, ³ and if he sees the sword coming upon the land and blows the trumpet and warns the people, ⁴ then if anyone who hears the sound of the trumpet does not take warning, and the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. ⁵ He heard the sound of the trumpet and did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But if he had taken warning, he would have saved his life. ⁶ But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, so that the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any one of them, that person is taken away in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand. ⁷ “So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul. ¹⁰ “And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ ¹¹ Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Reader: Let us read responsively by full verse Psalm 119:33-48.

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.***

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!***

³⁷ Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways.

³⁸ **Confirm to your servant your promise, that you may be feared.***

³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread, for your rules are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life!***

⁴¹ Let your steadfast love come to me, O LORD, your salvation according to your promise;

⁴² **then shall I have an answer for him who taunts me, for I trust in your word.***

⁴³ And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for my hope is in your rules.

⁴⁴ **I will keep your law continually, forever and ever,***

⁴⁵ and I shall walk in a wide place, for I have sought your precepts.

⁴⁶ **I will also speak of your testimonies before kings and shall not be put to shame,***

⁴⁷ for I find my delight in your commandments, which I love.

⁴⁸ **I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on your statutes.***

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew 18:15-20.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

If Your Brother Sins Against You

¹⁵ “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.