

The Collect and Readings

June 16, 2024

Collect of the Day: O Lord, from whom comes all good things; grant us, your humble servants, the inspiration to always think and do those things which are good, that by your merciful guiding we may perform the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Reader: The Old Testament reading is taken from Ezekiel 31:1-6, 10-14

31 In the eleventh year, in the third month, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me: ²“Son of man, say to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his multitude: “Whom are you like in your greatness? Behold, Assyria was a cedar in Lebanon, with beautiful branches and forest shade, and of towering height, its top among the clouds. ⁴The waters nourished it; the deep made it grow tall, making its rivers flow around the place of its planting, sending forth its streams to all the trees of the field. ⁵So it towered high above all the trees of the field; its boughs grew large and its branches long from abundant water in its shoots. ⁶All the birds of the heavens made their nests in its boughs; under its branches all the beasts of the field gave birth to their young, and under its shadow lived all great nations. ¹⁰“Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Because it towered high and set its top among the clouds, and its heart was proud of its height, ¹¹I will give it into the hand of a mighty one of the nations. He shall surely deal with it as its wickedness deserves. I have cast it out. ¹²Foreigners, the most ruthless of nations, have cut it down and left it. On the mountains and in all the valleys its branches have fallen, and its boughs have been broken in all the ravines of the land, and all the peoples of the earth have gone away from its shadow and left it. ¹³On its fallen trunk dwell all the birds of the heavens, and on its branches are all the beasts of the field. ¹⁴All this is in order that no trees by the waters may grow to towering height or set their tops among the clouds, and that no trees that drink water may reach up to them in height. For they are all given over to death, to the world below, among the children of man, with those who go down to the pit.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Reader: The Psalm this morning is 92, let us read it responsively by full verse (**How Great Are Your Works**)

92 It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

² **to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,**

³ to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

⁴ **For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

⁵ How great are your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!

⁶ **The stupid man cannot know; the fool cannot understand this:**

⁷ that though the wicked sprout like grass and all evildoers flourish, they are doomed to destruction forever;

⁸ **but you, O LORD, are on high forever.**

⁹ For behold, your enemies, O LORD, for behold, your enemies shall perish; all evildoers shall be scattered.

¹⁰ **But you have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox; you have poured over me fresh oil.**

¹¹ My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies; my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.

¹² **The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.**

¹³ They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God.

¹⁴ **They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green,**

¹⁵ to declare that the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Reader: The Epistle is taken from 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 (Our Heavenly Dwelling)

5 For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³ if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. ⁶ So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark 4:26-34

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

²⁶ And he said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷ He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸ The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.” ³⁰ And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? ³¹ It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” ³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. ³⁴ He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.