



A Celebration for the Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sentence

I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.
(Luke 15.10)

Opening Prayer or Collect

Undaunted you seek the lost, O God,
exultant you bring home the found:

touch our hearts with grateful wonder
at the tenderness of your forbearing love;
grant us delight in the mercy that has found us;
and bring all to rejoice at the feast of forgiven sinners.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Readings for the Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Old Testament: Jeremiah 4.11-12, 22-28

A Reading from the prophet Jeremiah, Chapter 4 beginning at verse 11

At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem: A hot wind comes from me out of the bare heights in the desert towards my poor people, not to winnow or cleanse—a wind too strong for that. Now it is I who speak in judgement against them.

‘For my people are foolish,
they do not know me;
they are stupid children,
they have no understanding.
They are skilled in doing evil,
but do not know how to do good.’

I looked on the earth, and lo, it was waste and void;
and to the heavens, and they had no light.

I looked on the mountains, and lo, they were quaking,
and all the hills moved to and fro.

I looked, and lo, there was no one at all,
and all the birds of the air had fled.

I looked, and lo, the fruitful land was a desert,
and all its cities were laid in ruins
before the Lord, before his fierce anger.

For thus says the Lord:

The whole land shall be a desolation; yet I will not make a full end.

Because of this the earth shall mourn,

and the heavens above grow black;
for I have spoken, I have purposed;
I have not relented nor will I turn back.

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 14 APBA p233

- 1 Fools have said in their hearts 'There is no God,':
they have all become vile and abominable in their doings
there is not one that does good.
- 2 The Lord looked down from heaven
upon the children of Adam:
to see if there were any who would act wisely
and seek after God.
- 3 But they have all turned out of the way
they have all alike become corrupt:
there is none that does good, no not one.
- 4 Are all the evildoers devoid of understanding:
who eat up my people as they eat bread,
and do not pray to the Lord?
- 5 They shall be struck with terror:
for God is with the company of the righteous.
- 6 Though they frustrate the poor in their hopes:
surely the Lord is their refuge.
- 7 O that deliverance for Israel might come forth from Zion:
when the Lord turns again the fortunes of his people,
then shall Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.

New Testament: 1 Timothy 1.1-2, (3-11),12-19a (19b-20)

A Reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy, Chapter 1 beginning at verse 1

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Saviour and of Christ Jesus our hope,

To Timothy, my loyal child in the faith:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I urge you, as I did when I was on my way to Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus so that you may instruct certain people not to teach any different doctrine, and not to occupy themselves with myths and endless genealogies that promote speculations rather than the divine training that is known by faith. But the aim of such instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith. Some people have deviated from these and turned to meaningless talk, desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make assertions.

Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it legitimately. This means understanding that the law is laid down not for the innocent but for the lawless and

disobedient, for the godless and sinful, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their father or mother, for murderers, fornicators, sodomites, slave-traders, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to the sound teaching that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, 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, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 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. 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. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

I am giving you these instructions, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies made earlier about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, having faith and a good conscience. *By rejecting conscience, certain persons have suffered shipwreck in the faith; among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have turned over to Satan, so that they may learn not to blaspheme.*

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

*A Reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke,
Chapter 15, beginning at verse 1*

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, ‘This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.’

So he told them this parable: ‘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? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, “Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.” Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

‘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? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, “Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.” Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.’

For the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ