

The Nineteenth Sunday after the Pentecost: October 3, 2021

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Job 1:1; 2:1-10

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason." Then Satan answered the Lord, "Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives. But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes. Then his wife said to him, "Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die." But he said to her, "You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Psalm 26

- 1 Give judgment for me, O LORD,
for I have lived with integrity; *
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.
- 2 Test me, O LORD, and try me; *
examine my heart and my mind.
- 3 For your love is before my eyes; *
I have walked faithfully with you.
- 4 I have not sat with the worthless, *
nor do I consort with the deceitful.
- 5 I have hated the company of evildoers; *
I will not sit down with the wicked.
- 6 I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, *
that I may go in procession round your altar,
- 7 Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving *
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.
- 8 LORD, I love the house in which you dwell *
and the place where your glory abides.
- 9 Do not sweep me away with sinners, *
nor my life with those who thirst for blood,
- 10 Whose hands are full of evil plots, *
and their right hand full of bribes.

11 As for me, I will live with integrity; *
redeem me, O LORD, and have pity on me.

12 My foot stands on level ground; *
in the full assembly I will bless the LORD.

The Second Lesson

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, subjecting all things under their feet." Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

The Gospel

Mark 10:2-16

Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Response for the Prayers of the People: Hear our prayer

Reader:

Merciful and loving God, we come before you seeking your grace. Create in us lives that are gracious and loving. We raise our hearts and voices to you, responding, In your mercy, Lord:

Reveal yourself to us in the world you have fashioned: in the wonder of your creation and in the faces of our brothers and sisters. Strengthen our commitment to being good stewards of all that we are and all that we have. Keep us mindful of the billions of your children we will never know and the generation which will follow us, In your mercy, Lord:

We pray for your church, that we may be alert of your stirring, and aware of your presence. Guide and strengthen those in leadership: our bishops, priest, and deacons. We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Jennifer, our Bishop; Mauricio, Bishop of Brasilia; for The Church of Wales, Debbie, our Priest, for the Rev C Davies, the Rev Allan and the people of St. Francis-in-the-Fields, Zionsville and for St. Andre's in Mithon. Empower all who worship and serve in your church, in your name. In your mercy, Lord:

We pray for the wisdom of our leaders; We pray for Joseph, our President, the Courts and Congress, Eric our Governor, and our mayors. In your mercy, Lord:

Train our hearts on you and teach us to listen to your voice and follow your lead. Equip us, we pray, with all we need to do the work you have given us to do: to reflect your goodness in the world, to open our hearts to all people, to partner with you in your mission of reconciliation, In your mercy Lord:

Flood this nation with a yearning for justice for all people in all things. Shine a light into those instances where we have been wrong of where we have claimed more than our share while the needs of others have been ignored. Ignite in us a passion for your purpose in this world you love so dearly, In your mercy, Lord:

As you never tire of loving us, may we never tire of caring for your people who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit. We thank you for experiences of new life and insight. We rejoice with those household expanding with new children and life-giving relationships. Hold close to your heart those who are making their final journey home to you. Grant them a peaceful end and a joyous entry into the communion of all the saints in the light. In your mercy Lord,