

The Twenty-First Sunday after the Pentecost: October 17, 2021

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Job 38:1-7, (34-41)

The LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind: "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, so that a flood of waters may cover you? Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go and say to you, 'Here we are'? Who has put wisdom in the inward parts, or given understanding to the mind? Who has the wisdom to number the clouds? Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens, when the dust runs into a mass and the clods cling together? "Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, when they crouch in their dens, or lie in wait in their covert? Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God, and wander about for lack of food?"

Psalm 104:1-9, 25, 37b

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul; * O LORD my God, how excellent is your greatness!
you are clothed with majesty and splendor.
- 2 You wrap yourself with light as with a cloak * and spread out the heavens like a curtain.
- 3 You lay the beams of your chambers in the waters above; * you make the clouds your chariot;
you ride on the wings of the wind.
- 4 You make the winds your messengers * and flames of fire your servants.
- 5 You have set the earth upon its foundations, * so that it never shall move at any time.
- 6 You covered it with the Deep as with a mantle; * the waters stood higher than the mountains.
- 7 At your rebuke they fled; * at the voice of your thunder they hastened away.
- 8 They went up into the hills and down to the valleys beneath, * to the places you had appointed
for them.
- 9 You set the limits that they should not pass; * they shall not again cover the earth.
- 25 O LORD, how manifold are your works! * in wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
- 37b Hallelujah!

The Second Lesson

Hebrews 5:1-10

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was

heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The Gospel

Mark 10:35-45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Jesus and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Response for the Prayers of the People: Hear our prayer.

Reader:

O God, Creator, Redeemer, Spirit—the One who knows and loves us best—we thank you for the great gift of your presence among us. Hold us close when we struggle with the noise of life. Call us to a quiet place so that we can hear your voice and come to understand your will. Lord, in your mercy:

Keep your church rooted in your Word and grounded in your love. Guide our leaders as they walk beside us, supporting us in our journey of faith. 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. Andrew Downs, The Rev. Deby Veach and the people of St. Stephen's, Terre Haute and for St. Andre's in Mithon. Lord, in your mercy:

Give those in authority an imagination and determination for peace between peoples, of plenty for all, of justice for everyone, even those who are forgotten. We pray for Joseph, our President, the Courts and Congress, Eric our Governor, and our mayors. We Lord, in your mercy:

In places where famine and weather disasters have destroyed lives and drained people of hope, we pray for those who suffer loss as well as those who seek to relieve their distress. Lord, in your mercy:

We pray for healing for those close to us. Assure them of your goodness that never ends, your grace that surrounds them on every side. We pray also for those who are voiceless, who have never known you, who are imprisoned by fear, that we witness to them your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy:

We pray for those who are born today as well as those who are being welcomed home to your eternal kingdom. May your will for each of those you love be fulfilled here on earth and in the life to come. Lord, in your mercy: