

READINGS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2025

THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 28 C

THE COLLECT

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

THE FIRST READING: ISAIAH 65:17-25

The people of Israel have prayed that God will reveal himself to them as he did in olden times. God has answered: "I was ready to be sought out" but no one sought my help. Israel was disobedient and self-centred, but God will preserve a faithful line that he will choose.

A Reading from the Word of God, written in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 65, beginning at the seventeenth verse.

For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;

the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.

But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I am creating;

for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its
people as a delight.

I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
and delight in my people;

no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,
or the cry of distress.

No more shall there be in it
an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;

for one who dies at a hundred years will be
considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be
considered accursed.

They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;

for like the days of a tree shall the days of my
people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their
hands.

They shall not labor in vain,
or bear children for calamity;

for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord--
and their descendants as well.

Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
but the serpent-- its food shall be dust!

They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

The people: *Thanks be to God.*

THE CANTICLE 9

The First Song of Isaiah: Isaiah 12:2-6

A canticle of praise announcing the vindication of those who have placed their confidence in the Lord God.

Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure
defense, *
and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is
exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great
things, *
and this is known in all the world.
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy
One of Israel.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son: *
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now: *
and shall be forever. **Amen.**

THE SECOND READING: 2 THESSALONIANS 3:6-13

We come to the concluding section of this letter – one which counsels against expecting Christ to come again soon. It seems that some in the community have ceased to work and to spread the word of God.

A Reading from the Word of God, written in the Second Epistle to the Thessalonians, Chapter 3, beginning at the sixth verse.

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in

idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

The Word of the Lord

The people: *Thanks be to God.*

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 21:5-19

We come to the end of Jesus' teaching in the Temple. His prediction of its destruction came true about forty years later. Jesus uses this as an opportunity to tell his followers of the ordeals they will need to endure. Perseverance will be rewarded.

Gospeler: *The Lord be with you*

All: *And also with you*

Gospeler: *A Reading from the Holy Gospel according*

to Luke.

All: Glory to Christ Our Saviour.

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

"When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death.

You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls."

This is the Gospel of Christ
The people: Praise to Christ our Lord.

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