

Readings – Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost 13-08-2023

Sentence

They cried out in fear, but Jesus spoke to them and said, ‘Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.’
Matthew 14.26–27

Collect

Mighty God and ruler of all creation,
give new strength to our faith,
that we may recognise your presence
even when all hope seems lost.

Help us to face all trials with serenity
as we walk with Christ through the stormy seas of life
and come at the last to your eternal peace.

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

Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28

Our first reading is taken from Genesis, Chapter 37 beginning at Verse 1

¹ Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. ² This is the story of the family of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. ³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. ⁴ But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him. ¹² Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. ¹³ And Israel said to Joseph, 'Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.' He answered, 'Here I am.' ¹⁴ So he said to him, 'Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me.' So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. He came to Shechem, ¹⁵ and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, 'What are you seeking?' ¹⁶ 'I am seeking my brothers,' he said; 'tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock.' ¹⁷ The man said, 'They have gone away, for I heard them say, "Let us go to Dothan."' So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. ¹⁸ They saw him

from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. ¹⁹ They said to one another, 'Here comes this dreamer. ²⁰ Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.' ²¹ But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, 'Let us not take his life.' ²² Reuben said to them, 'Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him'—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. ²³ So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; ²⁴ and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. ²⁵ Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. ²⁶ Then Judah said to his brothers, 'What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷ Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.' And his brothers agreed. ²⁸ When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22

Our Psalm today comes from Psalm 105. I will read one verse, and I invite you to respond with the next verse,

- ¹ O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name:
tell among the peoples what things he has done.
- ² **Sing to him, O sing praises:
and be telling of all his marvellous works.**
- ³ Exult in his holy name:
and let those that seek the Lord be joyful in heart.
- ⁴ **Seek the Lord and his strength:
O seek his face continually.**
- ⁵ Call to mind what wonders he has done:
his marvellous acts, and the judgements of his mouth,
- ⁶ **O seed of Abraham his servant:
O children of Jacob his chosen one.**
- ¹⁶ Then he called down a famine on the land:
and destroyed the bread that was their stay.
- ¹⁷ **But he had sent a man ahead of them:
Joseph who was sold into slavery,**
- ¹⁸ Whose feet they fastened with fetters:
and thrust his neck into a hoop of iron.
- ¹⁹ **Till the time that his words proved true:
he was tested by the Lord's command.**
- ²⁰ Then the king sent and loosed him:
the ruler of nations set him free;
- ²¹ **He made him master of his household:
and ruler over all his possessions,**
- ²² To rebuke his officers at will:
and to teach his counsellors wisdom.

Romans 10: 4-15

Our second reading is taken from the Letter of Paul to the Romans Chapter 10, beginning at Verse 4

⁴ For Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. ⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that 'the person who does these things will live by them.' ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?"' (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ 'or "Who will descend into the abyss?"' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart'(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' ¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 14: 22-36

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, Chapter 14, beginning at Verse 22, **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.' ²⁸ Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' ²⁹ He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.' ³⁴ When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. ³⁵ After the people of that place

recognized him, they sent word throughout the region and brought all who were sick to him, ³⁶ and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.