

## Readings – Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost 15-10-2023

### Sentence

This is our God for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Isaiah 25.9

### Collect

Saving and healing God,  
you have promised  
that those who have died with Christ shall live with him:  
grant us grace to be continually thankful for all you have done  
for us,  
and in that thankfulness  
to be eager to serve and live for others,  
so that we and all your children may rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## Exodus 32: 1-14

Our first reading is taken from Exodus, Chapter 32 beginning at Verse 1

<sup>1</sup> When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, 'Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' <sup>2</sup> Aaron said to them, 'Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.' <sup>3</sup> So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. <sup>4</sup> He took the gold from them, formed it in a mould, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' <sup>5</sup> When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, 'Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD .' <sup>6</sup> They rose early the next day, and offered burnt-offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel. <sup>7</sup> The LORD said to Moses, 'Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; <sup>8</sup> they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" ' <sup>9</sup> The LORD said to Moses, 'I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup> Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.' <sup>11</sup> But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, 'O LORD , why does your wrath

burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup> Why should the Egyptians say, "It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth"? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. <sup>13</sup> Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, "I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it for ever." ' <sup>14</sup> And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 106: 1-6, 20-24**

Our Psalm today comes from Psalm 106. I will read one verse, and I invite you to respond with the next verse,

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord; O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:  
and his mercy endures for ever.

<sup>2</sup> **Who can express the mighty acts of the Lord: or fully  
voice his praise?**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed are those who act according to justice: who at all  
times do the right.

<sup>4</sup> **Remember me, O Lord, when you visit your people with  
your favour: and come to me also with your salvation,**

<sup>5</sup> That I may see the prosperity of your chosen: that I may  
rejoice with the rejoicing of your people, and exult with those  
who are your own.

<sup>6</sup> **We have sinned like our ancestors: we have acted  
perversely and done wrong.**

<sup>20</sup> At Horeb they made themselves a calf: and bowed down in  
worship to an image.

<sup>21</sup> **And so they exchanged the glory of God: for the likeness  
of an ox that eats hay.**

<sup>22</sup> They forgot God who was their saviour: that had done such  
great things in Egypt,

<sup>23</sup> **Who had worked his wonders in the land of Ham: and his  
terrible deeds at the Red Sea.**

<sup>24</sup> Therefore he thought to destroy them: had not Moses his  
servant stood before him in the breach, to turn away his  
wrath from destroying them.

## Philippians 4

Our second reading is taken from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians Chapter 4, beginning at Verse 1

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. <sup>2</sup> I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup> Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. <sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup> Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. <sup>10</sup> I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it. <sup>11</sup> Not that I am

referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. <sup>12</sup> I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. <sup>13</sup> I can do all things through him who strengthens me. <sup>14</sup> In any case, it was kind of you to share my distress. <sup>15</sup> You Philippians indeed know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you alone. <sup>16</sup> For even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me help for my needs more than once. <sup>17</sup> Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit that accumulates to your account. <sup>18</sup> I have been paid in full and have more than enough; I am fully satisfied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. <sup>19</sup> And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. <sup>20</sup> To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen. <sup>21</sup> Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The friends who are with me greet you. <sup>22</sup> All the saints greet you, especially those of the emperor's household. <sup>23</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Matthew 22: 1-14**

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, Chapter 22, beginning at Verse 1, **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>1</sup> Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup> ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup> He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup> Again he sent other slaves, saying, “Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.” <sup>5</sup> But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup> while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup> The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. <sup>8</sup> Then he said to his slaves, “The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup> Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.” <sup>10</sup> Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. <sup>11</sup> ‘But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, <sup>12</sup> and he said to him, “Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?” And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup> Then the

king said to the attendants, “Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” <sup>14</sup> For many are called, but few are chosen.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**