

June 20 - 21, 2026

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Readings

First Reading

A Reading from Jeremiah

O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me.
For whenever I speak, I must cry out; I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the Lord has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.
If I say, "I will not mention God or speak any more in God's name,"
then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones;
I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around!
Denounce the Lord! Let us denounce the Lord!"
All my close friends are watching for me to stumble, saying,
"Perhaps God can be enticed,
and we can prevail against God and take our revenge on the Lord."

But the Lord is with me like a terrifying warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail.
They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten.
O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous; you see the heart and the mind;
let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.
Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord!
For the Lord has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

(pause)

Reader: Word of God, word of Life.

Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.

Second Reading

A Reading from Romans

Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?
Therefore we were buried with Christ by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Creator, so we also might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with Christ in a death like his, we will certainly be united with Christ in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with Christ so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin.

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

(pause)

Reader: **Word of God, word of Life.**

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

A Proclamation of the Holy Gospel According to Matthew

Jesus said to the twelve:

“A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master;
it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master.
If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul,
how much more will they malign those of his household!

“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered
and nothing secret that will not become known.

What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light,
and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.

Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul;
rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?

Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.

And even the hairs of your head are all counted.

So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

“Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others,

I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven,

but whoever denies me before others,

I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth;

I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

Those who find their life will lose it,

and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

Pastor: **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Congregation: Thanks be to God.