

## The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 8)

**Monday, June 29**

The Apostles Saint Peter and Saint Paul

Psalm 97

1 The Lord is King; let the earth rejoice; \*  
let the multitude of the isles be glad.

2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, \*  
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his  
throne.

3 A fire goes before him \*  
and burns up his enemies on every side.

4 His lightnings light up the world; \*  
the earth sees it and is afraid.

5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of  
the Lord, \*  
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

6 The heavens declare his righteousness, \*  
and all the peoples see his glory.

7 Confounded be all who worship carved images  
and delight in false gods! \*  
Bow down before him, all you gods.

8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah  
rejoice, \*  
because of your judgments, O Lord.

9 For you are the Lord,  
most high over all the earth; \*  
you are exalted far above all gods.

10 The Lord loves those who hate evil; \*  
he preserves the lives of his saints  
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, \*  
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.

12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, \*  
and give thanks to his holy Name.

Psalm 138

1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole  
heart; \*  
before the gods I will sing your praise.

2 I will bow down toward your holy temple  
and praise your Name, \*  
because of your love and faithfulness;

3 For you have glorified your Name \*  
and your word above all things.

4 When I called, you answered me; \*  
you increased my strength within me.

5 All the kings of the earth will praise you, O  
Lord, \*  
when they have heard the words of your mouth.

6 They will sing of the ways of the Lord, \*  
that great is the glory of the Lord.

7 Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; \*  
he perceives the haughty from afar.

8 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep  
me safe; \*  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my  
enemies;  
your right hand shall save me.

9 The Lord will make good his purpose for me; \*  
O Lord, your love endures for ever;  
do not abandon the works of your hands.

Isaiah 49:1-6

Listen to me, O coastlands,  
pay attention, you peoples from far away!

The Lord called me before I was born,  
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.  
He made my mouth like a sharp sword,  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow,  
in his quiver he hid me away.  
And he said to me, 'You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'  
But I said, 'I have laboured in vain,  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the Lord,  
and my reward with my God.'

And now the Lord says,  
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord,  
and my God has become my strength—  
he says,  
'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the  
earth.'

## Galatians 2:1-9

Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. I went up in response to a revelation. Then I laid before them (though only in a private meeting with the acknowledged leaders) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure that I was not running, or had not run, in vain. But even Titus, who was with me, was not compelled to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. But because of false believers\* secretly brought in, who slipped in to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might enslave us— we did not submit to them even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might always remain with you. And from those who were supposed to be acknowledged leaders (what they actually were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those leaders contributed nothing to me. On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel for the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been

entrusted with the gospel for the circumcised (for he who worked through Peter making him an apostle to the circumcised also worked through me in sending me to the Gentiles), and when James and Cephas and John, who were acknowledged pillars, recognized the grace that had been given to me, they gave to Barnabas and me the right hand of fellowship, agreeing that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

## Tuesday, June 30

### Psalm 124

1 If the Lord had not been on our side, \*  
let Israel now say;

2 If the Lord had not been on our side, \*  
when enemies rose up against us;

3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive \*  
in their fierce anger toward us;

4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us \*  
and the torrent gone over us;

5 Then would the raging waters \*  
have gone right over us.

6 Blessed be the Lord! \*  
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the  
fowler; \*  
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

8 Our help is in the Name of the Lord, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.

### Psalm 125

1 Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,\*  
which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.

2 The hills stand about Jerusalem; \*  
so does the Lord stand round about his people,  
from this time forth for evermore.

3 The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land allotted to the just, \*  
so that the just shall not put their hands to evil.

4 Show your goodness, O Lord, to those who are good \*  
and to those who are true of heart.

5 As for those who turn aside to crooked ways,  
the Lord will lead them away with the evildoers; \*  
but peace be upon Israel.

### **Psalm 126**

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, \*  
then were we like those who dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \*  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

3 Then they said among the nations, \*  
"The Lord has done great things for them."

4 The Lord has done great things for us, \*  
and we are glad indeed.

5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, \*  
like the watercourses of the Negev.

6 Those who sowed with tears \*  
will reap with songs of joy.

7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

### **Psalm 127**

1 Unless the Lord builds the house, \*  
their labor is in vain who build it.

2 Unless the Lord watches over the city, \*  
in vain the watchman keeps his vigil.

3 It is in vain that you rise so early and go to bed so late; \*  
vain, too, to eat the bread of toil,  
for he gives to his beloved sleep.

4 Children are a heritage from the Lord, \*  
and the fruit of the womb is a gift.

5 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior \*  
are the children of one's youth.

6 Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them! \*  
he shall not be put to shame  
when he contends with his enemies in the gate.

## **Numbers 22:21-38**

So Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the officials of Moab.

God's anger was kindled because he was going, and the angel of the Lord took his stand in the road as his adversary. Now he was riding on the donkey, and his two servants were with him. The donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road, with a drawn sword in his hand; so the donkey turned off the road, and went into the field; and Balaam struck the donkey, to turn it back on to the road. Then the angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on either side. When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, it scraped against the wall, and scraped Balaam's foot against the wall; so he struck it again. Then the angel of the Lord went ahead, and stood in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn either to the right or to the left. When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, it lay down under Balaam; and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he struck the donkey with his staff. Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and it said to Balaam, 'What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?' Balaam said to the donkey, 'Because you have made a fool of me! I wish I had a sword in my hand! I would kill you right now!' But the donkey said to Balaam, 'Am I not your donkey, which you have ridden all your life to this day? Have I been in the habit of treating you in this way?' And he said, 'No.'

Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road, with his drawn sword in his hand; and he bowed down, falling on his face. The angel of the Lord said to him, ‘Why have you struck your donkey these three times? I have come out as an adversary, because your way is perverse before me. The donkey saw me, and turned away from me these three times. If it had not turned away from me, surely I would by now have killed you and let it live.’ Then Balaam said to the angel of the Lord, ‘I have sinned, for I did not know that you were standing in the road to oppose me. Now therefore, if it is displeasing to you, I will return home.’ The angel of the Lord said to Balaam, ‘Go with the men; but speak only what I tell you to speak.’ So Balaam went on with the officials of Balak.

When Balak heard that Balaam had come, he went out to meet him at Ir-moab, on the boundary formed by the Arnon, at the farthest point of the boundary. Balak said to Balaam, ‘Did I not send to summon you? Why did you not come to me? Am I not able to honour you?’ Balaam said to Balak, ‘I have come to you now, but do I have power to say just anything? The word God puts in my mouth, that is what I must say.’

## **Romans 7:1-12**

Do you not know, brothers and sisters—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only during that person’s lifetime? Thus a married woman is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives; but if her husband dies, she is discharged from the law concerning the husband. Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man, she is not an adulteress.

In the same way, my friends, you have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead in order that we may bear fruit for God. While we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. But now we are

discharged from the law, dead to that which held us captive, so that we are slaves not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit.

What then should we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet, if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, ‘You shall not covet.’ But sin, seizing an opportunity in the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. Apart from the law sin lies dead. I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died, and the very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. For sin, seizing an opportunity in the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and just and good.

## **Matthew 21:23-32**

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, ‘By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?’ Jesus said to them, ‘I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?’ And they argued with one another, ‘If we say, “From heaven”, he will say to us, “Why then did you not believe him?” But if we say, “Of human origin”, we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.’ So they answered Jesus, ‘We do not know.’ And he said to them, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

‘What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.” He answered, “I will not”; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, “I go, sir”; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the

tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

### Wednesday, July 1

#### Psalm 128

1 Happy are they all who fear the Lord, \*  
and who follow in his ways!

2 You shall eat the fruit of your labor; \*  
happiness and prosperity shall be yours.

3 Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your  
house, \*  
your children like olive shoots round about your  
table.

4 The man who fears the Lord \*  
shall thus indeed be blessed.

5 The Lord bless you from Zion, \*  
and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the  
days  
of your life.

6 May you live to see your children's children; \*  
may peace be upon Israel.

#### Psalm 129

1 "Greatly have they oppressed me since my  
youth," \*  
let Israel now say;

2 "Greatly have they oppressed me since my  
youth,\*  
but they have not prevailed against me."

3 The plowmen plowed upon my back \*  
and made their furrows long.

4 The Lord, the Righteous One, \*  
has cut the cords of the wicked.

5 Let them be put to shame and thrown back, \*  
all those who are enemies of Zion.

6 Let them be like grass upon the housetops, \*  
which withers before it can be plucked;

7 Which does not fill the hand of the reaper, \*  
nor the bosom of him who binds the sheaves;

8 So that those who go by say not so much as,  
"The Lord prosper you. \*  
We wish you well in the Name of the Lord."

#### Psalm 130

1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;  
Lord, hear my voice; \*  
let your ears consider well the voice of my  
supplication.

2 If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, \*  
O Lord, who could stand?

3 For there is forgiveness with you; \*  
therefore you shall be feared.

4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; \*  
in his word is my hope.

5 My soul waits for the Lord,  
more than watchmen for the morning, \*  
more than watchmen for the morning.

6 O Israel, wait for the Lord, \*  
for with the Lord there is mercy;

7 With him there is plenteous redemption, \*  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins

### Numbers 22:41-23:12

On the next day Balak took Balaam and brought him up to Bamoth-baal; and from there he could see part of the people of Israel. Then Balaam said to Balak, 'Build me seven altars here, and prepare seven bulls and seven rams for me.' Balak did as Balaam had said; and Balak and Balaam offered a bull and a ram on each altar. Then Balaam said to Balak, 'Stay here beside your burnt-offerings while

I go aside. Perhaps the Lord will come to meet me. Whatever he shows me I will tell you.’ And he went to a bare height.

Then God met Balaam; and Balaam said to him, ‘I have arranged the seven altars, and have offered a bull and a ram on each altar.’ The Lord put a word in Balaam’s mouth, and said, ‘Return to Balak, and this is what you must say.’ So he returned to Balak, who was standing beside his burnt-offerings with all the officials of Moab. Then Balaam uttered his oracle, saying:

‘Balak has brought me from Aram,  
the king of Moab from the eastern mountains:

“Come, curse Jacob for me;

Come, denounce Israel!”

How can I curse whom God has not cursed?

How can I denounce those whom the Lord has not denounced?

For from the top of the crags I see him,  
from the hills I behold him;

Here is a people living alone,  
and not reckoning itself among the nations!

Who can count the dust of Jacob,  
or number the dust-cloud of Israel?

Let me die the death of the upright,  
and let my end be like his!’

Then Balak said to Balaam, ‘What have you done to me? I brought you to curse my enemies, but now you have done nothing but bless them.’ He answered, ‘Must I not take care to say what the Lord puts into my mouth?’

## **Romans 7:13-25**

Did what is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, working death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am of the flesh, sold into slavery under sin. I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells

within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

## **Matthew 21:33-46**

‘Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, “They will respect my son.” But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, “This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.” So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ They said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.’

Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the scriptures:

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
this was the Lord’s doing,  
and it is amazing in our eyes”?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that

produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.’

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

## THURSDAY, JULY 2<sup>nd</sup>

### Psalm 134

1 Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, \*  
you that stand by night in the house of the Lord.

2 Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the Lord; \*  
the Lord who made heaven and earth bless you out of Zion.

### Psalm 135

1 Hallelujah!  
Praise the Name of the Lord; \*  
give praise, you servants of the Lord.

2 You who stand in the house of the Lord, \*  
in the courts of the house of our God.

3 Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; \*  
sing praises to his Name, for it is lovely.

4 For the Lord has chosen Jacob for himself \*  
and Israel for his own possession.

5 For I know that the Lord is great, \*  
and that our Lord is above all gods.

6 The Lord does whatever pleases him, in heaven  
and on earth, \*  
in the seas and all the deeps.

7 He brings up rain clouds from the ends of the  
earth; \*  
he sends out lightning with the rain,

and brings the winds out of his storehouse.

8 It was he who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, \*  
the firstborn both of man and beast.

9 He sent signs and wonders into the midst of you,  
O Egypt, \*  
against Pharaoh and all his servants.

10 He overthrew many nations \*  
and put mighty kings to death:

11 Sihon, king of the Amorites,  
and Og, the king of Bashan, \*  
and all the kingdoms of Canaan.

12 He gave their land to be an inheritance, \*  
an inheritance for Israel his people.

13 O Lord, your Name is everlasting; \*  
your renown, O Lord, endures from age to age.

14 For the Lord gives his people justice \*  
and shows compassion to his servants.

15 The idols of the heathen are silver and gold, \*  
the work of human hands.

16 They have mouths, but they cannot speak; \*  
eyes have they, but they cannot see.

17 They have ears, but they cannot hear; \*  
neither is there any breath in their mouth.

18 Those who make them are like them, \*  
and so are all who put their trust in them.

19 Bless the Lord, O house of Israel; \*  
O house of Aaron, bless the Lord.

20 Bless the Lord, O house of Levi; \*  
you who fear the Lord, bless the Lord.

21 Blessed be the Lord out of Zion, \*  
who dwells in Jerusalem.  
Hallelujah!

## Numbers 23:11-26

Then Balak said to Balaam, 'What have you done to me? I brought you to curse my enemies, but now you have done nothing but bless them.' He answered, 'Must I not take care to say what the Lord puts into my mouth?'

So Balak said to him, 'Come with me to another place from which you may see them; you shall see only part of them, and shall not see them all; then curse them for me from there.' So he took him to the field of Zophim, to the top of Pisgah. He built seven altars, and offered a bull and a ram on each altar. Balaam said to Balak, 'Stand here beside your burnt-offerings, while I meet the Lord over there.' The Lord met Balaam, put a word into his mouth, and said, 'Return to Balak, and this is what you shall say.' When he came to him, he was standing beside his burnt-offerings with the officials of Moab. Balak said to him, 'What has the Lord said?' Then Balaam uttered his oracle, saying:

'Rise, Balak, and hear;  
listen to me, O son of Zippor:  
God is not a human being, that he should lie,  
or a mortal, that he should change his mind.  
Has he promised, and will he not do it?  
Has he spoken, and will he not fulfil it?  
See, I received a command to bless;  
he has blessed, and I cannot revoke it.  
He has not beheld misfortune in Jacob;  
nor has he seen trouble in Israel.  
The Lord their God is with them,  
acclaimed as a king among them.  
God, who brings them out of Egypt,  
is like the horns of a wild ox for them.  
Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob,  
no divination against Israel;  
now it shall be said of Jacob and Israel,  
"See what God has done!"  
Look, a people rising up like a lioness,  
and rousing itself like a lion!  
It does not lie down until it has eaten the prey  
and drunk the blood of the slain.'

Then Balak said to Balaam, 'Do not curse them at all, and do not bless them at all.' But Balaam

answered Balak, 'Did I not tell you, "Whatever the Lord says, that is what I must do"?''

## Romans 8:1-11

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

## Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. 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." But they made light of it and

went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." 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.

'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. 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." For many are called, but few are chosen.'