

## July 3 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### 2 Kings 5:1-14

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel."

He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy." When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

### Psalm 30

1 I will exalt you, O Lord,  
because you have lifted me up \*  
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

2 O Lord my God, I cried out to you, \*  
and you restored me to health.

3 You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead; \*  
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

4 Sing to the Lord, you servants of his; \*  
give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.

5 For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, \*  
his favor for a lifetime.

6 Weeping may spend the night, \*  
but joy comes in the morning.

7 While I felt secure, I said,  
"I shall never be disturbed. \*  
You, Lord, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains."

8 Then you hid your face, \*  
and I was filled with fear.

9 I cried to you, O Lord; \*  
I pleaded with the Lord, saying,

10 "What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit? \*  
will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?"

11 Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me; \*  
O Lord, be my helper."

12 You have turned my wailing into dancing; \*  
you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.

13 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; \*  
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

## **Galatians 6:(1-6)7-16**

[My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. For all must carry their own loads.

Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.]

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised-- only that they may not be

persecuted for the cross of Christ. Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule-- peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

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## July 10 – 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### Amos 7:7-17

This is what the Lord God showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. And the Lord said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

"See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by;

the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,  
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,  
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said,

`Jeroboam shall die by the sword,  
and Israel must go into exile  
away from his land.'"

And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, `Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

"Now therefore hear the word of the Lord.

You say, `Do not prophesy against Israel,  
and do not preach against the house of Isaac.'

Therefore thus says the Lord:

`Your wife shall become a prostitute in the city,  
and your sons and your daughters shall fall by the sword,  
and your land shall be parceled out by line;

you yourself shall die in an unclean land,  
and Israel shall surely go into exile away from its land.'"

## **Psalm 82**

1 God takes his stand in the council of heaven; \*  
he gives judgment in the midst of the gods:

2 "How long will you judge unjustly, \*  
and show favor to the wicked?

3 Save the weak and the orphan; \*  
defend the humble and needy;

4 Rescue the weak and the poor; \*  
deliver them from the power of the wicked.

5 They do not know, neither do they understand;  
they go about in darkness; \*  
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

6 Now I say to you, 'You are gods, \*  
and all of you children of the Most High;

7 Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, \*  
and fall like any prince.'"

8 Arise, O God, and rule the earth, \*  
for you shall take all nations for your own.

## **Colossians 1:1-14**

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good

work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

## July 17 – 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### Amos 8:1-12

This is what the Lord God showed me-- a basket of summer fruit. He said, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the Lord said to me,

"The end has come upon my people Israel;  
I will never again pass them by.

The songs of the temple shall become wailings in that day,"  
says the Lord God;

"the dead bodies shall be many,  
cast out in every place. Be silent!"

Hear this, you that trample on the needy,  
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

saying, "When will the new moon be over  
so that we may sell grain;

and the sabbath,  
so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,  
and practice deceit with false balances,

buying the poor for silver  
and the needy for a pair of sandals,  
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:

Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

Shall not the land tremble on this account,  
and everyone mourn who lives in it,

and all of it rise like the Nile,  
and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt?

On that day, says the Lord God,  
I will make the sun go down at noon,  
and darken the earth in broad daylight.

I will turn your feasts into mourning,  
and all your songs into lamentation;

I will bring sackcloth on all loins,  
and baldness on every head;

I will make it like the mourning for an only son,  
and the end of it like a bitter day.

The time is surely coming, says the Lord God,  
when I will send a famine on the land;

not a famine of bread, or a thirst for water,  
but of hearing the words of the Lord.

They shall wander from sea to sea,  
and from north to east;

they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord,  
but they shall not find it.

## **Psalm 52**

1 You tyrant, why do you boast of wickedness \*  
against the godly all day long?

2 You plot ruin;  
your tongue is like a sharpened razor, \*  
O worker of deception.

3 You love evil more than good \*  
and lying more than speaking the truth.

4 You love all words that hurt, \*  
O you deceitful tongue.

5 Oh, that God would demolish you utterly, \*  
topple you, and snatch you from your dwelling,  
and root you out of the land of the living!

6 The righteous shall see and tremble, \*  
and they shall laugh at him, saying,

7 "This is the one who did not take God for a refuge, \*  
but trusted in great wealth  
and relied upon wickedness."

8 But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; \*  
I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever.

9 I will give you thanks for what you have done \*  
and declare the goodness of your Name in the presence of the godly.

## **Colossians 1:15-28**

Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers-- all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him-- provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

## July 24 – Patronal Feast: Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

### Genesis 17:1-8

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding; and I will be their God."

### Psalm 132:11-19

- 11 The LORD has sworn an oath to David; \*  
in truth, he will not break it:
- 12 "A son, the fruit of your body \*  
will I set upon your throne.
- 13 If your children keep my covenant  
and my testimonies that I shall teach them, \*  
their children will sit upon your throne for evermore."
- 14 For the LORD has chosen Zion; \*  
he has desired her for his habitation:
- 15 "This shall be my resting-place for ever; \*  
here will I dwell, for I delight in her.
- 16 I will surely bless her provisions, \*  
and satisfy her poor with bread.
- 17 I will clothe her priests with salvation, \*  
and her faithful people will rejoice and sing.
- 18 There will I make the horn of David flourish; \*  
I have prepared a lamp for my Anointed.
- 19 As for his enemies, I will clothe them with shame; \*  
but as for him, his crown will shine."

## **1 Thessalonians 1:1-5**

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.

## July 31 – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### Hosea 11:1-11

When Israel was a child, I loved him,  
and out of Egypt I called my son.

The more I called them,  
the more they went from me;

they kept sacrificing to the Baals,  
and offering incense to idols.

Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk,  
I took them up in my arms;  
but they did not know that I healed them.

I led them with cords of human kindness,  
with bands of love.

I was to them like those  
who lift infants to their cheeks.  
I bent down to them and fed them.

They shall return to the land of Egypt,  
and Assyria shall be their king,  
because they have refused to return to me.

The sword rages in their cities,  
it consumes their oracle-priests,  
and devours because of their schemes.

My people are bent on turning away from me.  
To the Most High they call,  
but he does not raise them up at all.

How can I give you up, Ephraim?  
How can I hand you over, O Israel?

How can I make you like Admah?  
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?

My heart recoils within me;  
my compassion grows warm and tender.

I will not execute my fierce anger;  
I will not again destroy Ephraim;

for I am God and no mortal,  
the Holy One in your midst,  
and I will not come in wrath.

They shall go after the Lord,  
who roars like a lion;

when he roars,  
his children shall come trembling from the west.

They shall come trembling like birds from Egypt,  
and like doves from the land of Assyria;  
and I will return them to their homes, says the Lord.

### **Psalm 107:1-9, 43**

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, \*  
and his mercy endures for ever.

2 Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim \*  
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

3 He gathered them out of the lands; \*  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.

4 Some wandered in desert wastes; \*  
they found no way to a city where they might dwell.

5 They were hungry and thirsty; \*  
their spirits languished within them.

6 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, \*  
and he delivered them from their distress.

7 He put their feet on a straight path \*  
to go to a city where they might dwell.

8 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy \*  
and the wonders he does for his children.

9 For he satisfies the thirsty \*  
and fills the hungry with good things.

43 Whoever is wise will ponder these things, \*  
and consider well the mercies of the Lord.

## **Colossians 3:1-11**

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things-- anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!