

## October 2 – 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### Lamentations 1:1-6

How lonely sits the city that once was full of people! How like a widow she has become, she that was great among the nations! She that was a princess among the provinces has become a vassal. She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks; among all her lovers she has no one to comfort her; all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they have become her enemies. Judah has gone into exile with suffering and hard servitude; she lives now among the nations, and finds no resting place; her pursuers have all overtaken her in the midst of her distress. The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to the festivals; all her gates are desolate, her priests groan; her young girls grieve, and her lot is bitter. Her foes have become the masters, her enemies prosper, because the Lord has made her suffer for the multitude of her transgressions; her children have gone away, captives before the foe. From daughter Zion has departed all her majesty. Her princes have become like stags that find no pasture; they fled without strength before the pursuer.

### Psalm 137

- 1 By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept, \*  
when we remembered you, O Zion.
- 2 As for our harps, we hung them up \*  
on the trees in the midst of that land.
- 3 For those who led us away captive asked us for a song, and our oppressors called for mirth: \*  
"Sing us one of the songs of Zion."
- 4 How shall we sing the Lord'S song \*  
upon an alien soil.
- 5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem, \*  
let my right hand forget its skill.
- 6 Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, \*  
if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy.
- 7 Remember the day of Jerusalem, O Lord, against the people of Edom, \*  
who said, "Down with it! down with it! even to the ground!"
- 8 O Daughter of Babylon, doomed to destruction, \*  
happy the one who pays you back for what you have done to us!
- 9 Happy shall he be who takes your little ones, \*  
and dashes them against the rock!

## **2 Timothy 1:1-14**

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I am grateful to God-- whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did-- when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

## October 9 – 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

### Psalm 66:1-11

- 1 Be joyful in God, all you lands; \*  
sing the glory of his Name; sing the glory of his praise.
- 2 Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! \*  
because of your great strength your enemies cringe before you.
- 3 All the earth bows down before you, \*  
sings to you, sings out your Name."
- 4 Come now and see the works of God, \*  
how wonderful he is in his doing toward all people.
- 5 He turned the sea into dry land, so that they went through the water on foot, \*  
and there we rejoiced in him.
- 6 In his might he rules for ever; his eyes keep watch over the nations; \*  
let no rebel rise up against him.
- 7 Bless our God, you peoples; \*  
make the voice of his praise to be heard;
- 8 Who holds our souls in life, \*  
and will not allow our feet to slip.
- 9 For you, O God, have proved us; \*  
you have tried us just as silver is tried.
- 10 You brought us into the snare; \*  
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
- 11 You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water; \*  
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

## **2 Timothy 2:8-15**

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David-- that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;  
if we endure, we will also reign with him;  
if we deny him, he will also deny us;  
if we are faithless, he remains faithful--  
for he cannot deny himself.

Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

## October 16 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### Jeremiah 31:27-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the Lord. In those days they shall no longer say:

"The parents have eaten sour grapes,  
and the children's teeth are set on edge."

But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt-- a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

### Psalm 119:97-104

97 Oh, how I love your law! \*  
all the day long it is in my mind.

98 Your commandment has made me wiser than my enemies, \*  
and it is always with me.

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, \*  
for your decrees are my study.

100 I am wiser than the elders, \*  
because I observe your commandments.

101 I restrain my feet from every evil way, \*  
that I may keep your word.

102 I do not shrink from your judgments, \*  
because you yourself have taught me.

103 How sweet are your words to my taste! \*  
they are sweeter than honey to my mouth.

104 Through your commandments I gain understanding; \*  
therefore I hate every lying way.

## **2 Timothy 3:14-4:5**

As for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

## October 23 – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### Joel 2:23-32

O children of Zion, be glad  
and rejoice in the Lord your God;

for he has given the early rain for your vindication,  
he has poured down for you abundant rain,  
the early and the later rain, as before.

The threshing floors shall be full of grain,  
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years  
that the swarming locust has eaten,

the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,  
my great army, which I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,  
and praise the name of the Lord your God,  
who has dealt wondrously with you.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,  
and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.

And my people shall never again  
be put to shame.

Then afterward  
I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;

your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
your old men shall dream dreams,  
and your young men shall see visions.

Even on the male and female slaves,  
in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

## Psalm 65

- 1 You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; \*  
to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.
- 2 To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, \*  
because of their transgressions.
- 3 Our sins are stronger than we are, \*  
but you will blot them out.
- 4 Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there! \*  
they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.
- 5 Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, \*  
O Hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are far away.
- 6 You make fast the mountains by your power; \*  
they are girded about with might.
- 7 You still the roaring of the seas, \*  
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.
- 8 Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; \*  
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.
- 9 You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; \*  
the river of God is full of water.
- 10 You prepare the grain, \*  
for so you provide for the earth.
- 11 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; \*  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.
- 12 You crown the year with your goodness, \*  
and your paths overflow with plenty.
- 13 May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, \*  
and the hills be clothed with joy.
- 14 May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,  
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; \*  
let them shout for joy and sing.

## **2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18**

I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## October 30 – 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,  
and you will not listen?

Or cry to you "Violence!"  
and you will not save?

Why do you make me see wrong-doing  
and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;  
strife and contention arise.

So the law becomes slack  
and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous--  
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

I will stand at my watchpost,  
and station myself on the rampart;

I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,  
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

Then the Lord answered me and said:

Write the vision;  
make it plain on tablets,  
so that a runner may read it.

For there is still a vision for the appointed time;  
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it;  
it will surely come, it will not delay.

Look at the proud!  
Their spirit is not right in them,  
but the righteous live by their faith.

## **Psalm 119:137-144**

137 You are righteous, O Lord, \*  
and upright are your judgments.

138 You have issued your decrees \*  
with justice and in perfect faithfulness.

139 My indignation has consumed me, \*  
because my enemies forget your words.

140 Your word has been tested to the uttermost, \*  
and your servant holds it dear.

141 I am small and of little account, \*  
yet I do not forget your commandments.

142 Your justice is an everlasting justice \*  
and your law is the truth.

143 Trouble and distress have come upon me, \*  
yet your commandments are my delight.

144 The righteousness of your decrees is everlasting; \*  
grant me understanding, that I may live.

## **2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12**

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of everyone of you for one another is increasing. Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring.

To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.