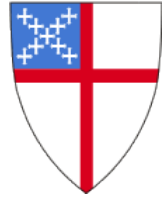


The Lessons Appointed for Use on the  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

Proper 7 - Year A - RCL



## The Collect

O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your lovingkindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## Old Testament ~ Jeremiah 20:7-13

O LORD, thou hast deceived me,  
and I was deceived;  
thou art stronger than I,  
and thou hast prevailed.  
I have become a laughingstock all the day;  
every one mocks me.  
For whenever I speak, I cry out,  
I 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 him,  
or speak any more in his name,"  
there is in my heart as it were a burning fire  
shut up in my bones,  
and I am weary with holding it in,  
and I cannot.  
For I hear many whispering.  
Terror is on every side!  
"Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"  
say all my familiar friends,  
watching for my fall.  
"Perhaps he will be deceived,  
then we can overcome him,  
and take our revenge on him."  
But the LORD is with me as a dread warrior;  
therefore my persecutors will stumble,  
they will not overcome me.  
They will be greatly shamed,  
for they will not succeed.

Their eternal dishonor  
will never be forgotten.

O LORD of hosts, who triest the righteous,  
who seest the heart and the mind,  
let me see thy vengeance upon them,  
for to thee have I committed my cause.

Sing to the LORD;  
praise the LORD!  
For he has delivered the life of the needy  
from the hand of evildoers.

### **The Psalm ~ Psalm 69: 8-20 ~ *Salvum me fac***

- 8 Surely, for your sake have I suffered reproach, \*  
and shame has covered my face.
- 9 I have become a stranger to my own kindred, \*  
an alien to my mother's children.
- 10 Zeal for your house has eaten me up; \*  
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.
- 11 I humbled myself with fasting, \*  
but that was turned to my reproach.
- 12 I put on sack-cloth also, \*  
and became a byword among them.
- 13 Those who sit at the gate murmur against me, \*  
and the drunkards make songs about me.
- 14 But as for me, this is my prayer to you, \*  
at the time you have set, O LORD:
- 15 "In your great mercy, O God, \*  
answer me with your unfailing help.
- 16 Save me from the mire; do not let me sink; \*  
let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters.
- 17 Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swallow me up; \*  
do not let the Pit shut its mouth upon me.

- 18 Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind; \*  
in your great compassion, turn to me.'
- 19 "Hide not your face from your servant; \*  
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.
- 20 Draw near to me and redeem me; \*  
because of my enemies deliver me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen*

### **The Epistle ~ Romans 6:1b-11**

Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

### **The Gospel ~ Matthew 10:24-39**

"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master; it is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his 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 that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, utter in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim upon the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father's will. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

So every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to bring peace on earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,  
and a daughter against her mother,  
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;  
and a man's foes will be those of his own household.

He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake will find it.