

## Thanksgiving Sunday, October 7, 2018

### Scripture

#### Joel 2:21-27

A reading from Joel.

*The prophet Joel understood that a locust plague that ravaged the land of Judah was God's judgment on the people, whom he then called to repentance. Today's reading points beyond the judgment to a time when the Lord will bless the land and cause it to produce food in abundance.*

<sup>21</sup>Do not fear, O soil;  
be glad and rejoice,  
for the LORD has done great things!

<sup>22</sup>Do not fear, you animals of the field,  
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;  
the tree bears its fruit,  
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

<sup>23</sup>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.

<sup>24</sup>The threshing floors shall be full of grain,  
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

<sup>25</sup>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.

<sup>26</sup>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.

<sup>27</sup>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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 126: READ ONLY BY THE READER OF THE DAY

<sup>1</sup>When the Lord restored the for- | tunes of Zion,  
then were we like | those who dream.

<sup>2</sup>Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue  
with | shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done  
great | things for them.”

<sup>3</sup>The Lord has done great | things for us,  
and we are | glad indeed.

<sup>4</sup>Restore our for- | tunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses | of the Negeb.

<sup>5</sup>Those who | sowed with tears  
will reap with | songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup>Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,  
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.

### 1 Timothy 2:1-7

A reading from 1 Timothy.

*Christians are encouraged to offer prayers and thanks for all people, including rulers (who were pagans rather than Christians). We offer such inclusive, far-reaching prayers because God desires to save all people.*

<sup>1</sup>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup>This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,  
Christ Jesus, himself human,

<sup>6</sup>who gave himself a ransom for all  
—this was attested at the right time.<sup>7</sup>For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Matthew 6:25-33**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught his disciples about the providence of God so that they would regard life with thanksgiving and trust rather than anxiety.*

[Jesus said,] <sup>25</sup>“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup>And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>28</sup>And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup>yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup>Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ <sup>32</sup>For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup>But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**