

## The First Reading

### Genesis 45:1-15

The First Reading is from Genesis chapter 45.

**45** Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup>And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. <sup>3</sup>Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

<sup>4</sup>Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup>And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup>For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup>God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup>So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup>You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup>I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ <sup>12</sup>And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. <sup>13</sup>You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” <sup>14</sup>Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. <sup>15</sup>And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 133

<sup>1</sup>How very good and pleasant it is  
when kindred live together in unity!  
<sup>2</sup>It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down upon the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron,  
running down over the collar of his robes.  
<sup>3</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion.  
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,  
life forevermore.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

## **Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32**

The Second Reading is from Romans chapter 11.

11 I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup> God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

<sup>29</sup> for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup> Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup> so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. <sup>32</sup> For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

## **Gospel of Matthew 15:10-28**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter. Glory to you O Lord.

<sup>10</sup> Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: <sup>11</sup> it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." <sup>12</sup> Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" <sup>13</sup> He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. <sup>14</sup> Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind.<sup>[a]</sup> And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." <sup>15</sup> But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." <sup>16</sup> Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? <sup>17</sup> Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? <sup>18</sup> But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. <sup>19</sup> For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. <sup>20</sup> These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

The Canaanite Woman's Faith

<sup>21</sup> Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." <sup>23</sup> But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." <sup>24</sup> He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." <sup>25</sup> But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." <sup>26</sup> He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>27</sup> She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to you O Christ.

## Prayers of Intercession

Confident of your care and upheld by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need, responding with the Canaanite woman to each petition "Help us, O Lord."

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the Christian church around the world, for humility where the church is dominant, for courage where it is oppressed, and for faithfulness when it cannot assemble for worship. Bless your church, faithful God: **help us, O Lord.**

We pray for your bountiful earth, for cleaner air, for the fields on which our food grows, for the renewal of lands and waters that have suffered from disregard. Protect your earth, creative God: **help us, O Lord.**

We pray for the nations of the earth, for the peaceful resolution of disputes around the world, for just policies that care for the poor, and for the upcoming political conventions in our land. Save humankind, sovereign God: **help us, O Lord.**

We pray for all in need of healing, for the residents of Beirut and other distressed cities, for those suffering from hurricane damage, for those sick and dying of COVID-19, for the unemployed, for people without medical care, for medical workers and researchers, for the outcasts of our society, and for those we name here: Bradley, Josie, Bev, Nancy, Elizabeth, John, Linda, Dave, Jim, Cassie & Family, Delores, Graham, Jim, Bob, Ila, Tucker, Marjorie, Norman, Carmen, Evelyn, Darrell, Donna,

and Sgt. Lacey Elliott, who continues to serve our country

Heal the sick, merciful God: **help us, O Lord.**

We pray for a spirit of respect the world's religions, for wisdom concerning the many houses of prayer, and for guidance where religion serves as an arm of the government. Direct all people of faith, gracious God: **help us, O Lord.**

We pray for schools around the globe, for educators who must plan for the fall, and for children without the resources to access remote learning. Guide us, compassionate God: **help us, O Lord.**

We pray, finally, for ourselves, for whenever we feel tormented by demons, and for all our family and friends. Loving God: **help us, O Lord.**

We mourn the deaths of those we love, and we praise you for the lives of all your faithful people. At the end, gather us all into the joy of your presence. Grant us salvation, eternal God: **help us, O Lord.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**