

First Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

from the Common English Bible

²I know a man in Christ who was caught up into the third heaven fourteen years ago. I don't know whether it was in the body or out of the body. God knows. ³ - ⁴I know that this man was caught up into paradise and that he heard unspeakable words that were things no one is allowed to repeat. I don't know whether it was in the body or apart from the body. God knows. ⁵I'll brag about this man, but I won't brag about myself, except to brag about my weaknesses. ⁶If I did want to brag, I wouldn't make a fool of myself because I'd tell the truth. I'm holding back from bragging so that no one will give me any more credit than what anyone sees or hears about me. ⁷I was given a thorn in my body because of the outstanding revelations I've received so that I wouldn't be conceited. It's a messenger from Satan sent to torment me so that I wouldn't be conceited. ⁸I pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me alone. ⁹He said to me, "My grace is enough for you, because power is made perfect in weakness." So I'll gladly spend my time bragging about my weaknesses so that Christ's power can rest on me. ¹⁰Therefore, I'm all right with weaknesses, insults, disasters, harassments, and stressful situations for the sake of Christ, because when I'm weak, then I'm strong.

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 6:1-13

from the Common English Bible

¹Jesus left that place and came to his hometown. His disciples followed him. ²On the Sabbath, he began to teach in the synagogue. Many who heard him were surprised. "Where did this man get all this? What's this wisdom he's been given? What about the powerful acts accomplished through him?" ³Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't he Mary's son and the brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" They were repulsed by him and fell into sin. ⁴Jesus said to them, "Prophets are honored everywhere except in their own hometowns, among their relatives, and in their own households." ⁵He was unable to do any miracles there, except that he placed his hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶He was appalled by their disbelief. Then Jesus traveled through the surrounding villages teaching. ⁷He called for the Twelve and sent them out in pairs. He gave them authority over unclean spirits. ⁸He instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a walking stick - no bread, no bags, and no money in their belts. ⁹He told them to wear sandals but not to put on two shirts. ¹⁰He said, "Whatever house you enter, remain there until you leave that place. ¹¹If a place doesn't welcome you or listen to you, as you leave, shake the dust off your feet as a witness against them." ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that people should change their hearts and lives. ¹³They cast out many demons, and they anointed many sick people with olive oil and healed them.

Psalm Reading

48

from the UMH, 782

¹Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God...

² whose holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth...

Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great Ruler.

³Within its citadels God has proven a sure defense.

⁴For lo, the kings assembled, they marched together.

⁵As soon as they saw it, they were astounded, they were in panic, they took to flight...

⁶trembling took hold of them there, anguish as of a woman in travail...

⁷as when an east wind shatters the ships of Tarshish.

⁸As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God, which God establishes for ever.

⁹We have thought on your steadfast love, O God, in the mist of your temple.

¹⁰As your name, O God, so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth.

Your right hand is filled with victory; ¹¹let Mount Zion be glad!

Let the daughters of Judah rejoice because of your judgements!

¹²Walk about Zion, go round about it, number its towers...

¹³consider well its ramparts, go through its citadels, that you may tell the next generation...

¹⁴“This is God, our God for ever and ever. God will be our guide for ever.”