

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Primary O.T. Lesson and Psalm: **Jeremiah 8:18- 9:1**

8:18

You who are my Comforter in sorrow,
my heart is faint within me.

19

Listen to the cry of my people
from a land far away:

“Is the Lord not in Zion?

Is her King no longer there?”

“Why have they aroused my anger with their images,
with their worthless foreign idols?”

20

“The harvest is past,
the summer has ended,
and we are not saved.”

21

Since my people are crushed, I am crushed;
I mourn, and horror grips me.

22

Is there no balm in Gilead?

Is there no physician there?

Why then is there no healing

for the wound of my people?

9:1

Oh, that my head were a spring of water
and my eyes a fountain of tears!

I would weep day and night
for the slain of my people.

Psalm 79:1-9

A psalm of Asaph.

1

O God, the nations have invaded your inheritance;
they have defiled your holy temple,
they have reduced Jerusalem to rubble.

2

They have left the dead bodies of your servants
as food for the birds of the sky,
the flesh of your own people for the animals of the wild.

3

They have poured out blood like water
all around Jerusalem,
and there is no one to bury the dead.

4

We are objects of contempt to our neighbors,
of scorn and derision to those around us.

5

How long, Lord? Will you be angry forever?
How long will your jealousy burn like fire?

6

Pour out your wrath on the nations
that do not acknowledge you,
on the kingdoms
that do not call on your name;

7

for they have devoured Jacob
and devastated his homeland.

8

Do not hold against us the sins of past generations;
may your mercy come quickly to meet us,
for we are in desperate need.

9

Help us, God our Savior,
for the glory of your name;
deliver us and forgive our sins
for your name's sake

*Alternate O.T. Lesson and Psalm: **Amos 8:4-7***

4

Hear this, you who trample the needy
and do away with the poor of the land,

5 saying,

“When will the New Moon be over
that we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath be ended
that we may market wheat?” —
skimping on the measure,
boosting the price
and cheating with dishonest scales,

6

buying the poor with silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
selling even the sweepings with the wheat.

7 The Lord has sworn by himself, the Pride of Jacob: “I will never forget anything they have done.

Psalm 113

1
Praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord, you his servants;
 praise the name of the Lord.

2
Let the name of the Lord be praised,
 both now and forevermore.

3
From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets,
 the name of the Lord is to be praised.

4
The Lord is exalted over all the nations,
 his glory above the heavens.

5
Who is like the Lord our God,
 the One who sits enthroned on high,

6
who stoops down to look
 on the heavens and the earth?

7
He raises the poor from the dust
 and lifts the needy from the ash heap;

8
he seats them with princes,
 with the princes of his people.

9
He settles the childless woman in her home
 as a happy mother of children.
Praise the Lord.

N.T. Lesson: **I Timothy 2:1-7**

Instructions on Worship

1 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— **2** for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. **3** This is good, and pleases God our Savior, **4** who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. **5** For there is one God and one mediator between God

and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, **6** who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. **7** And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles.

Gospel reading: **Luke 16:1-13**

The Parable of the Shrewd Manager

1 Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. **2** So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’

3 “The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg— **4** I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’

5 “So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

6 “‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied.

“The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’

7 “Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’

“‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied.

“He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’

8 “The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. **9** I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

10 “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. **11** So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? **12** And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?

13 “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”