

15th Sunday after Pentecost

O.T. Lesson and Psalm: **Exodus 14:19-31**

19 Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, **20** coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, **22** and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

23 The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. **24** During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. **25** He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

26 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." **27** Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. **28** The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

29 But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. **30** That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. **31** And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

Psalm 114

- 1** When Israel came out of Egypt,
Jacob from a people of foreign tongue,
- 2** Judah became God's sanctuary,
Israel his dominion.
- 3** The sea looked and fled,
the Jordan turned back;

- 4 the mountains leaped like rams,
the hills like lambs.
5 Why was it, sea, that you fled?
Why, Jordan, did you turn back?
6 Why, mountains, did you leap like rams,
you hills, like lambs?
7 Tremble, earth, at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
8 who turned the rock into a pool,
the hard rock into springs of water.

or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21

The Song of Moses and Miriam

1b

"I will sing to the Lord,
for he is highly exalted.

Both horse and driver
he has hurled into the sea.

2

"The Lord is my strength and my defense;
he has become my salvation.
He is my God, and I will praise him,
my father's God, and I will exalt him.

3

The Lord is a warrior;
the Lord is his name.

4

Pharaoh's chariots and his army
he has hurled into the sea.
The best of Pharaoh's officers
are drowned in the Red Sea.

5

The deep waters have covered them;
they sank to the depths like a stone.

6

Your right hand, Lord,
was majestic in power.
Your right hand, Lord,
shattered the enemy.

7

"In the greatness of your majesty
you threw down those who opposed you.
You unleashed your burning anger;
it consumed them like stubble.

8

By the blast of your nostrils
the waters piled up.
The surging waters stood up like a wall;
the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea.

9

The enemy boasted,
 'I will pursue, I will overtake them.
I will divide the spoils;
 I will gorge myself on them.
I will draw my sword
 and my hand will destroy them.'

10

But you blew with your breath,
 and the sea covered them.
They sank like lead
 in the mighty waters.

11

Who among the gods
 is like you, Lord?
Who is like you—
 majestic in holiness,
awesome in glory,
 working wonders?

20 Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. **21** Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the Lord,
 for he is highly exalted.
Both horse and driver
 he has hurled into the sea."

Alternate O.T. Lesson and Psalm: **Genesis 50:15-21**

Joseph Reassures His Brothers

15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" **16** So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: **17** 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

18 His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

19 But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? **20** You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. **21** So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Psalm 103:(1-7) 8-13

- 1** Praise the LORD, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
- 2** Praise the LORD, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—
- 3** who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
- 4** who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
- 5** who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- 6** The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.
- 7** He made known his ways to Moses,
his deeds to the people of Israel:
- 8** The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
- 9** He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
- 10** he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.
- 11** For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;
- 12** as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
- 13** As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

Epistle Lesson: Romans 14:1-12**The Weak and the Strong**

- 1** Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters.
- 2** One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. **3** The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. **4** Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.
- 5** One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. **6** Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does

so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. **7** For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. **8** If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. **9** For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

10 You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. **11** It is written:

"As surely as I live," says the Lord,
'every knee will bow before me;
every tongue will acknowledge God.'"

12 So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

Gospel reading: **Matthew 18:21-35**

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

23 "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. **24** As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. **25** Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

26 "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' **27** The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

28 "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

29 "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'

30 "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. **31** When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

32 "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. **33** Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' **34** In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

35 "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."