

6th Sunday after Pentecost

O.T. Lesson and Psalm: **Genesis 25:19-34**

Jacob and Esau

19 This is the account of the family line of Abraham's son Isaac.

Abraham became the father of Isaac, **20** and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan Aram and sister of Laban the Aramean.

21 Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was childless. The Lord answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant.

22 The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the Lord.

23 The Lord said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples from within you will be separated;
one people will be stronger than the other,
and the older will serve the younger."

24 When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. **25** The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. **26** After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them.

27 The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents.

28 Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

29 Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. **30** He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!" (That is why he was also called Edom.)

31 Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright."

32 "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?"

33 But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob.

34 Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright.

Psalm 119:105-112**105**

Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path.

106

I have taken an oath and confirmed it,
that I will follow your righteous laws.

107

I have suffered much;
preserve my life, Lord, according to your word.

108

Accept, Lord, the willing praise of my mouth,
and teach me your laws.

109

Though I constantly take my life in my hands,
I will not forget your law.

110

The wicked have set a snare for me,
but I have not strayed from your precepts.

111

Your statutes are my heritage forever;
they are the joy of my heart.

112

My heart is set on keeping your decrees
to the very end.

*Alternate O.T. Lesson and Psalm: **Isaiah 55:10-13***

10 As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

12 You will go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills
will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field
will clap their hands.

13 Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper,

and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.
This will be for the LORD's renown,
for an everlasting sign,
that will endure forever."

Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13

For the director of music. A psalm of David. A song.

- 1** Praise awaits you, our God, in Zion;
to you our vows will be fulfilled.
- 2** You who answer prayer,
to you all people will come.
- 3** When we were overwhelmed by sins,
you forgave our transgressions.
- 4** Blessed are those you choose
and bring near to live in your courts!
We are filled with the good things of your house,
of your holy temple.
- 5** You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds,
God our Savior,
the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas,
- 6** who formed the mountains by your power,
having armed yourself with strength,
- 7** who stilled the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
and the turmoil of the nations.
- 8** The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders;
where morning dawns, where evening fades,
you call forth songs of joy.

- 9** You care for the land and water it;
you enrich it abundantly.
The streams of God are filled with water
to provide the people with grain,
for so you have ordained it.
- 10** You drench its furrows and level its ridges;
you soften it with showers and bless its crops.
- 11** You crown the year with your bounty,
and your carts overflow with abundance.
- 12** The grasslands of the wilderness overflow;
the hills are clothed with gladness.
- 13** The meadows are covered with flocks
and the valleys are mantled with grain;
they shout for joy and sing.

Epistle Lesson: **Romans 8:1-11**

Life Through the Spirit

1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, **2** because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. **3** For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, **4** in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

5 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. **6** The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. **7** The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. **8** Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. **10** But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. **11** And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Gospel reading: **Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**
The Parable of the Sower

1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. **2** Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. **3** Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. **4** As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. **5** Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. **6** But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. **7** Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. **8** Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. **9** Whoever has ears, let them hear."

18 "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: **19** When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. **20** The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. **21** But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. **22** The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. **23** But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."