

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 23 OCTOBER 2016

These readings are provided, first, so you can re-read and reflect on them during the week, and second, if you wish, to follow the readings during the service.

²⁶ Those who heard it said, 'Then who can be saved?' ²⁷ He replied, 'What is impossible for mortals is possible for God.'²⁸ Then Peter said, 'Look, we have left our homes and followed you.'²⁹ And he said to them, 'Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, ³⁰ who will not get back very much more in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.'

Joel 2.23-32

²³ O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God;
for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before.

²⁴ The threshing-floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

²⁵ I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you.

²⁶ You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

²⁷ You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

²⁸ Then afterwards I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;

your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.

²⁹ Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

³⁰ I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke.

³¹ The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes.

³² Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

Psalm 65

- ¹ You are to be praised, O God, in Zion:
to you shall vows be paid, you that
answer prayer.
- ² To you shall all flesh come to confess their
sins:
when our misdeeds prevail against us,
you will purge them away.
- ³ Blessed are those whom you choose and
take to yourself to dwell within your courts:
we shall be filled with the good things
of your house, of your holy temple.
- ⁴ You will answer us in your righteousness
with terrible deeds, O God our saviour:
you that are the hope of all the ends of
the earth and of the distant seas;
- ⁵ Who by your strength made fast the
mountains:
you that are girded with power;
- ⁶ Who stilled the raging of the seas, the
roaring of the waves:
and the tumult of the peoples.
- ⁷ Those who dwell at the ends of the earth
are afraid at your wonders:
the dawn and the evening sing your
praises.
- ⁸ You tend the earth and water it:
you make it rich and fertile.
- ⁹ The river of God is full of water:
and so providing for the earth,
you provide grain for us all.
- ¹⁰ You drench its furrows, you level the
ridges between:
you soften it with showers and bless its
early growth.
- ¹¹ You crown the year with your goodness:
and the tracks where you have passed
drip with fatness.
- ¹² The pastures of the wilderness run over:
and the hills are girded with joy.
- ¹³ The meadows are clothed with sheep:
and the valleys stand so thick with corn,
they shout for joy and sing.

2 Timothy 4.6-8, 16-18

⁶ As for me, I am already being poured out as
a libation, and the time of my departure has
come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have
finished the race, I have kept the
faith. ⁸ From now on there is reserved for me

the crown of righteousness, which the Lord,
the righteous judge, will give to me on that
day, and not only to me but also to all who
have longed for his appearing. ¹⁶ At my first
defence no one came to my support, but all
deserted me. May it not be counted against
them! ¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and gave
me strength, so that through me the
message might be fully proclaimed and all the
Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from
the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me
from every evil attack and save me for his
heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for
ever and ever. Amen.

Luke 18.15-30

¹⁵ People were bringing even infants to him
that he might touch them; and when the
disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them
not to do it. ¹⁶ But Jesus called for them and
said, 'Let the little children come to me, and
do not stop them; for it is to such as these
that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁷ Truly I
tell you, whoever does not receive the
kingdom of God as a little child will never
enter it.' ¹⁸ A certain ruler asked him, 'Good
Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal
life?' ¹⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call
me good? No one is good but God
alone. ²⁰ You know the commandments: "You
shall not commit adultery; You shall not
murder; You shall not steal; You shall not
bear false witness; Honour your father and
mother." ' ²¹ He replied, 'I have kept all these
since my youth.' ²² When Jesus heard this, he
said to him, 'There is still one thing lacking.
Sell all that you own and distribute the
money to the poor, and you will have
treasure in heaven; then come, follow
me.' ²³ But when he heard this, he became
sad; for he was very rich. ²⁴ Jesus looked at
him and said, 'How hard it is for those who
have wealth to enter the kingdom of
God! ²⁵ Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go
through the eye of a needle than for
someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of
God.'

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