

## August 11 – Does God *really* hear my prayers?

Jonah 2:1-10 | First Reading

A reading from Jonah

Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, <sup>2</sup> saying,

“I called to the LORD out of my distress,  
and he answered me;  
out of the belly of Sheol I cried,  
and you heard my voice.

<sup>3</sup> You cast me into the deep,  
into the heart of the seas,  
and the flood surrounded me;  
all your waves and your billows  
passed over me.

<sup>4</sup> Then I said, ‘I am driven away  
from your sight;  
how<sup>[a]</sup> shall I look again  
upon your holy temple?’

<sup>5</sup> The waters closed in over me;  
the deep surrounded me;  
weeds were wrapped around my head  
<sup>6</sup> at the roots of the mountains.

I went down to the land  
whose bars closed upon me forever;  
yet you brought up my life from the Pit,  
O LORD my God.

<sup>7</sup> As my life was ebbing away,  
I remembered the LORD,  
and my prayer came to you,  
into your holy temple.

<sup>8</sup> Those who worship vain idols  
forsake their true loyalty.

<sup>9</sup> But I with the voice of thanksgiving  
will sacrifice to you;

what I have vowed I will pay.

Deliverance belongs to the LORD!"

<sup>10</sup> Then the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out onto the dry land.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 51:1-12

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your <sup>l</sup> steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out <sup>l</sup> my offenses.

<sup>2</sup> **Wash me through and through <sup>l</sup> from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me <sup>l</sup> from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup> For I know <sup>l</sup> my offenses,  
and my sin is ev- <sup>l</sup> er before me.

<sup>4</sup> **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil <sup>l</sup> in  
your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right <sup>l</sup> in your  
judgment.**

<sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born <sup>l</sup> steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my <sup>l</sup> mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup> **Indeed, you delight in truth <sup>l</sup> deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom <sup>l</sup> deep within.**

<sup>7</sup> Remove my sins with hyssop, and I <sup>l</sup> shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be pur- <sup>l</sup> er than snow.

<sup>8</sup> **Let me hear <sup>l</sup> joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken <sup>l</sup> may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup> Hide your face <sup>l</sup> from my sins,  
and blot out <sup>l</sup> all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup> **Create in me a clean <sup>l</sup> heart, O God,  
and renew a right spir- <sup>l</sup> it within me.**

<sup>11</sup> Cast me not away <sup>l</sup> from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spir- <sup>l</sup> it from me.

<sup>12</sup> **Restore to me the joy of <sup>l</sup> your salvation  
and sustain me with your boun- <sup>l</sup> tiful Spirit.**

## Colossians 1:9-14 | Second Reading

A reading from Colossians

<sup>9</sup> For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's<sup>[a]</sup> will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup> so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. <sup>11</sup> May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father,<sup>[b]</sup> who has enabled<sup>[c]</sup> you<sup>[d]</sup> to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup> He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption,<sup>[e]</sup> the forgiveness of sins.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Matthew 6:5-15 | Gospel Reading

### The Holy gospel according to Matthew

<sup>5</sup> "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup> But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>7</sup> "When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup> Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

<sup>9</sup> "Pray, then, in this way:

Our Father in heaven,

    may your name be revered as holy.

<sup>10</sup>    May your kingdom come.

    May your will be done

        on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup>    Give us today our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup>    And forgive us our debts,

        as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup>    And do not bring us to the time of trial,  
        but rescue us from the evil one.

<sup>14</sup> "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, <sup>15</sup> but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

The gospel of the Lord.