

August 25 – Why?

Judges 6:1-6, 11-16a | First Reading

A reading from Judges

¹ The Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD gave them into the hand of Midian seven years. ² The hand of Midian prevailed over Israel, and because of Midian the Israelites provided for themselves hiding places in the mountains, caves and strongholds. ³ For whenever the Israelites put in seed, the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the east would come up against them. ⁴ They would encamp against them and destroy the produce of the land, as far as the neighborhood of Gaza, and leave no sustenance in Israel, nor any sheep or ox or donkey. ⁵ For they and their livestock would come up, and they would even bring their tents, as thick as locusts; neither they nor their camels could be counted, so they wasted the land as they came in. ⁶ Thus Israel was greatly impoverished because of Midian, and the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help.

¹¹ Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the oak at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, as his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites. ¹² The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, you mighty warrior." ¹³ Gideon answered him, "But sir, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our ancestors recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has cast us off and given us into the hand of Midian." ¹⁴ Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian; I hereby commission you." ¹⁵ He responded, "But sir, how can I deliver Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." ¹⁶ The LORD said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike down the Midianites, every one of them."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 42:1-3, 9-11

¹ As the deer longs ^l for the water-brooks,
so longs my soul for ^l you, O God.

² I thirst for God, for the ^l living God;
when shall I come to appear before the pres- ^l ence of God?

³ **My tears have been my food ^l day and night,
while all day long they say to me, "Where now ^l is your
God?"**

⁹ I will say to the God of my strength, "Why have you
re- ^l jected me,
and why do I wander in such gloom while the enemy
op- ^l presses me?"

¹⁰ While my bones are being broken, my enemies mock me ^l to
my face;
all day long they mock me and say to me, "Where now ^l is
your God?"

¹¹ **Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, and why
are you so disquiet- ^l ed within me?**

**Put your trust in God, for I will yet give thanks to the
one who is my help ^l and my God.**

2 Corinthians 12:2-10 | Second Reading

A reading from 2nd Corinthians

² I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³ And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— ⁴ was caught up into paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵ On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶ But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷ even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep^[a] me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated.^[b] ⁸ Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹ but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power^[c] is made perfect in weakness.” So I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰ Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ, for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 13:24-30 | Gospel Reading

The Holy gospel according to Matthew

²⁴He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'

The gospel of the Lord.