



SUNDAY, AUGUST 28–SEPTEMBER 3

TIME AFTER PENTECOST — LECTIONARY 22

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

A reading from Jeremiah.

¹⁵O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you, says the LORD. ►

FIRST READING *Jeremiah = jehr-uh-MY-uh*

Embrace the lament of the prophet. The word pictures are wonderful—consider them carefully. “Your words were found, and I ate them” (made them a part of my very being!). “Under the weight of your hand I sat alone” (indignation at the failure of the people to listen separates the prophet from the community). “You are to me like a deceitful brook” (drying up when I need water the most). Give the hearer time to capture and consider the images as well. Verses 19-21 are the promising voice of God and require a tone different than the one employed in verses 15-18.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Word of God, word of life. *or* The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 26:1-8

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

A reading from Romans.

⁹Let love be genuine;
hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good;
¹⁰love one another with mutual affection;
outdo one another in showing honor.
¹¹Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord.
¹²Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer.
¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints;
pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.
¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.
¹⁶Live in harmony with one another;
do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly;
do not claim to be wiser than you are.
¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil,
but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.
¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you,
live peaceably with all.
¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves,
but leave room for the wrath of God,
for it is written,
“Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.”
²⁰Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them;
if they are thirsty, give them something to drink,
for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.”
²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Word of God, word of life. *or* The word of the Lord.

SECOND READING

These are simple, central imperatives for the Christian life. This is loving instruction on how to live lovingly. Do not succumb to the temptation to read quickly. Savor and celebrate the sense of the community life that adhering to such instruction would produce. Help the hearer to understand the importance of every phrase.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

²¹From that time on,

“after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,[□]
Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem
and undergo great suffering
at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes
and be killed and on the third day be raised.

²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying,
“God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.”

²³But he turned and said to Peter,

“Get behind me, Satan!
You are a hindrance to me,
for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples,

“If any wish to come after me,
let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it,
and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world
but forfeit their life?

Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father,
and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.

²⁸Truly I tell you,
there are some standing here who will not taste death
before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL

“Living with the text” in prayer and in rehearsal before addressing the assembly is essential. The words are familiar but formidable. It is important to “let the word in” before attempting to “get the word out.”