

Sunday, July 4, 2010  
Lectionary 14  
Proper 9  
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

**READINGS**

Isaiah 66:10–14

2 Kings 5:1–14 (Semi-continuous)

Psalm 66:1–9

All the earth bows down before you and sings out your name. (Ps. 66:4)

Psalm 30 (Semi-continuous)

My God, I cried out to you, and you restored me to health. (Ps. 30:2)

Galatians 6:[1–6] 7–16

Luke 10:1–11, 16–20

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 66:10–14**

*Those who returned from the exile found that the hopes for the glorious restoration of Judah were not completely fulfilled. For these disappointed people, the prophet envisions salvation in the image of a nursing woman. Mother Jerusalem and a mothering God remind the community how they are sustained and supported.*

<sup>10</sup>Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,  
all you who love her;  
rejoice with her in joy,  
all you who mourn over her —

<sup>11</sup>that you may nurse and be satisfied  
from her consoling breast;  
that you may drink deeply with delight  
from her glorious bosom.

<sup>12</sup>For thus says the LORD:  
I will extend prosperity to her like a river,  
and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream;  
and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm,  
and dandled on her knees.

<sup>13</sup>As a mother comforts her child,  
so I will comfort you;  
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

<sup>14</sup>You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice;

your bodies shall flourish like the grass;  
and it shall be known that the hand of the LORD is with his servants,  
and his indignation is against his enemies.\

**FIRST READING (SEMI-CONTINUOUS): 2 Kings 5:1–14**

*Naaman, a Syrian general, suffers from leprosy. In this passage Elisha miraculously cures his illness, but only after Naaman realizes, with the help of his servants, that his real problem lies in his pride.*

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. <sup>2</sup>Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. <sup>3</sup>She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." <sup>4</sup>So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. <sup>5</sup>And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel."

He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. <sup>6</sup>He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy." <sup>7</sup>When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

<sup>8</sup>But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." <sup>9</sup>So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. <sup>10</sup>Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." <sup>11</sup>But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! <sup>12</sup>Are not Abana and Parpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. <sup>13</sup>But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" <sup>14</sup>So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

**PSALM (ELW): Psalm 66:1–9**

*All the earth bows down before you and sings out your name. (Ps. 66:4)*

<sup>1</sup>Be joyful in God, | all you lands;  
be joyful, | all the earth.

**<sup>2</sup>Sing the glory | of God's name;  
sing the glory | of God's praise.**

<sup>3</sup>Say to God, "How awesome | are your deeds!  
Because of your great strength your enemies | cringe before you.

**<sup>4</sup>All the earth bows | down before you,  
sings to you, sings | out your name." R**

<sup>5</sup>Come now and see the | works of God,  
how awesome are God's deeds | toward all people.

**<sup>6</sup>God turned the sea into dry land, so that they went through the wa- | ter on foot,  
and there we re- | joiced in God.**

<sup>7</sup>Ruling forever in might, God keeps watch o- | ver the nations;  
let no rebels ex- | alt themselves.

**<sup>8</sup>Bless our | God, you peoples;  
let the sound of | praise be heard.**

<sup>9</sup>Our God has kept us a- | mong the living  
and has not allowed our | feet to slip. R

**PSALM (ELW) (SEMI-CONTINUOUS): Psalm 30**

*My God, I cried out to you, and you restored me to health. (Ps. 30:2)*

<sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lift- | ed me up  
and have not let my enemies triumph | over me.

**<sup>2</sup>O LORD my God, I cried | out to you,  
and you restored | me to health.**

<sup>3</sup>You brought me up, O LORD, | from the dead;  
you restored my life as I was going down | to the grave.

**<sup>4</sup>Sing praise to the LORD, | all you faithful;  
give thanks in ho- | ly remembrance. R**

<sup>5</sup>God's wrath is short; God's favor | lasts a lifetime.  
Weeping spends the night, but joy comes | in the morning.

**<sup>6</sup>While I felt se- | cure, I said,  
"I shall never | be disturbed.**

<sup>7</sup>You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong | as the mountains."  
Then you hid your face, and I was | filled with fear.

**<sup>8</sup>I cried to | you, O LORD;  
I pleaded with | my Lord, saying,**

<sup>9</sup>"What profit is there in my blood, if I go down | to the pit?  
Will the dust praise you or de- | clare your faithfulness?

**<sup>10</sup>Hear, O LORD, and have mer- | cy upon me;  
O LORD, | be my helper." R**

<sup>11</sup>You have turned my wailing | into dancing;  
you have put off my sackcloth and clothed | me with joy.

**<sup>12</sup>Therefore my heart sings to you <sup>1</sup> without ceasing;  
O LORD my God, I will give you <sup>1</sup> thanks forever. R**

**SECOND READING: Galatians 6:[1–6] 7–16**

*In the close of his letter to the Galatians, Paul encourages them to live as people made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Here Paul offers practical advice about how believers exercise common concern for one other in "the family of faith."*

My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. <sup>2</sup>Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup>For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. <sup>4</sup>All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. <sup>5</sup>For all must carry their own loads.

<sup>6</sup>Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

<sup>7</sup>Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. <sup>8</sup>If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. <sup>9</sup>So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup>So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

<sup>11</sup>See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! <sup>12</sup>It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised — only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. <sup>13</sup>Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. <sup>14</sup>May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. <sup>15</sup>For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! <sup>16</sup>As for those who will follow this rule — peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

**GOSPEL: Luke 10:1–11, 16–20**

*Jesus commissions harvesters and laborers to go where he would go and do what he would do. Risking hardship and danger in exchange for the experience of great joy, they offer peace and healing as signs that the reign of God is near.*

After this the Lord appointed seventyothers and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. <sup>2</sup>He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. <sup>3</sup>Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. <sup>4</sup>Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. <sup>5</sup>Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to

this house!' <sup>6</sup>And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup>Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house.

<sup>8</sup>Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; <sup>9</sup>cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' <sup>10</sup>But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup>'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.' <sup>16</sup>Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.

<sup>17</sup>The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" <sup>18</sup>He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. <sup>19</sup>See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. <sup>20</sup>Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."