

Sunday, July 25, 2010
Lectionary 17
Proper 12
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

READINGS

Genesis 18:20–32

Hosea 1:2–10 (Semi-continuous)

Psalm 138

Your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands. (Ps. 138:8)

Psalm 85 (Semi-continuous)

Righteousness shall go before the LORD. (Ps. 85:13)

Colossians 2:6–15 [16–19]

Luke 11:1–13

FIRST READING: Genesis 18:20–32

In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom, for the sake of the few righteous people who are in it, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.

²⁰Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

²²So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?" ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake."

²⁷Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the LORD, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰Then he said, "Oh do not let the LORD be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the LORD. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³²Then he said, "Oh do not let the LORD be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

FIRST READING (SEMI-CONTINUOUS): Hosea 1:2–10

Hosea's marriage to a faithless wife symbolizes Israel's faithlessness towards God. Even the names of Hosea's children—Jezreel (where Israel's idolatrous kings were killed), Lo-ruhamah ("not pitied"), and Lo-ammi ("not my people")—announce the nation's coming doom, countered by the proclamation that Israel remains a child of the living God.

²When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, "Go, take for yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD." ³So he went and took Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

⁴And the LORD said to him, "Name him Jezreel for in a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. ⁵On that day I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel."

⁶She conceived again and bore a daughter. Then the LORD said to him, "Name her Lo-ruhamah, for I will no longer have pity on the house of Israel or forgive them. ⁷But I will have pity on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the LORD their God; I will not save them by bow, or by sword, or by war, or by horses, or by horsemen."

⁸When she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son. ⁹Then the LORD said, "Name him Lo-ammi, for you are not my people and I am not your God."

¹⁰Yet the number of the people of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which can be neither measured nor numbered; and in the place where it was said to them, "You are not my people," it shall be said to them, "Children of the living God."

PSALM (ELW): Psalm 138

Your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands. (Ps. 138:8)

¹I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with ¹ my whole heart;
before the gods I will ¹ sing your praise.

²I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast ¹ love and faithfulness;

for you have glorified your name and your word a- ¹bove all things. R

³When I called, you ¹ answered me;
you increased my ¹ strength within me.

**⁴All the rulers of the earth will praise ¹ you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words ¹ of your mouth.**

⁵They will sing of the ways ¹ of the LORD,
that great is the glory ¹ of the LORD.

**⁶The LORD is high, yet cares ¹ for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty ¹ from afar. R**

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you ¹ keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right ¹ hand shall save

me.

**⁸You will make good your pur- | pose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works | of your
hands. R**

PSALM (ELW) (SEMI-CONTINUOUS): Psalm 85

Righteousness shall go before the LORD. (Ps. 85:13)

¹You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD;
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

**²You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people
and blotted out | all their sins.**

³You have withdrawn | all your fury
and turned yourself from your wrathful | indignation.

**⁴Restore us then, O | God our Savior;
let your anger de- | part from us. R**

⁵Will you be displeased with | us forever?
Will you prolong your anger from | age to age?

**⁶Will you not give us | life again,
that your people may re- | joice in you?**

⁷Show us your steadfast | love, O LORD,
and grant us | your salvation.

**⁸I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their | hearts to
you. R**

⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell | in our land.

**¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.**

¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.

**¹²The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.**

¹³Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD
and shall prepare for | God a pathway. R

SECOND READING: Colossians 2:6–15 [16–19]

Paul warns his congregation in Colossae about "the empty lure" of philosophies and traditions

that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection, which is enacted in baptism.

⁶As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹²when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

¹⁶Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. ¹⁷These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ¹⁹and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.

GOSPEL: Luke 11:1–13

In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to child-like trust and persistence in prayer.

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." ²He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

⁵And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' ⁷And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' ⁸I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹²Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"