

**August 20th 2023**

## **Collect**

God of freedom,  
you have broken the tyranny of sin  
and sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts:  
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,  
that all people may know the glorious liberty of the children of God;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## **1st Reading**

### **Genesis 45:1-15**

**1** After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.”

**2** But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?”

**3** And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

**4** Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.”

**5** He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

**6** Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

**7** He also said to him, “I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.”

**8** But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?”

**9** So the LORD said to him, “Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.”

**10** Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half.

**11** Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

**12** As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.

**13** Then the LORD said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there.

**14** But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions.

**15** You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age.

## **Psalm**

### **Psalm 133**

**1** How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!

**2** It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron’s beard, down on the collar of his robe.

**3** It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

## **2nd Reading**

### **Romans 11:13-32**

**13** I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry

**14** in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them.

**15** For if their rejection brought reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

**16** If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches.

**17** If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root,

**18** do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you.

**19** You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.”

**20** Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble.

**21** For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either.

**22** Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off.

**23** And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.

**24** After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!

### **All Israel Will Be Saved**

**25** I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in,

**26** and in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written: “The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.

**27** And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.”

**28** As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your

sake; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs,

**29** for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.

**30** Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience,

**31** so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you.

**32** For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

## **Gospel**

### **Matthew 15:10-28**

**10** Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand.

**11** What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them."

**12** Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?"

**13** He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots.

**14** Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit."

**15** Peter said, "Explain the parable to us."

**16** "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them.

**17** "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body?"

**18** But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them.

**19** For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

**20** These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them."

**21** Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon.

**22** A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-

possessed and suffering terribly.”

**23** Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.”

**24** He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.”

**25** The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said.

**26** He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

**27** “Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.”

**28** Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.