

**July 23rd 2023**

## **Collect**

Saving God,  
in Jesus Christ you opened for us a new and living way into your presence:  
give us pure hearts  
and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth;  
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 13:8-18**

**8** So Abram said to Lot, “Let’s not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives.

**9** Is not the whole land before you? Let’s part company. If you go to the left, I’ll go to the right; if you go to the right, I’ll go to the left.” **10** Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.)

**11** So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company:

**12** Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom.

**13** Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD.

**14** The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, “Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west.

**15** All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.

**16** I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted.

**17** Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you.”

**18** So Abram went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he pitched his tents. There he built an altar to the LORD.

## **Psalm**

## Psalm 139

- 1 You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.
- 2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- 3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.
- 4 Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.
- 5 You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.
- 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.
- 7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?
- 8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
- 9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,
- 10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.
- 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"
- 12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.
- 13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
- 15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.
- 17 How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!
- 18 Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand — when I awake, I am still with you.
- 19 If only you, God, would slay the wicked! Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!
- 20 They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name.
- 21 Do I not hate those who hate you, LORD, and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?
- 22 I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies. 23 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.
- 24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

## 2nd Reading

### Romans 12:1-18

- 1** Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.
- 2** Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.
- 3** For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.
- 4** For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,
- 5** so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.
- 6** We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith;
- 7** if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach;
- 8** if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.
- 9** Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.
- 10** Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.
- 11** Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.
- 12** Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.
- 13** Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.
- 14** Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
- 15** Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. **16** Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.
- 17** Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.
- 18** If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

## **Gospel**

### **Matthew 8:23-27**

- 23** Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him.
- 24** Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping.
- 25** The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

**26** He replied, “You of little faith, why are you so afraid?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

**27** The men were amazed and asked, “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!”