

**July 9th 2023**

**Collect**

Almighty God,  
your Son Jesus Christ has taught us  
that what we do for the least of his brothers and sisters  
we do also for him:  
give us the will to serve others  
as he was the servant of all,  
who gave up his life and died for us;  
yet lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**1st Reading**

**Isaiah 35:1-10**

- 1** The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus,
- 2** it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.
- 3** Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way;
- 4** say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you."
- 5** Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
- 6** Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
- 7** The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

**8** And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it.

**9** No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there,

**10** and those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

## **Psalm**

### **Psalm 45.10-17**

**10** Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear:  
forget your own people and your father's house.

**11** The king desires your beauty:  
he is your lord, therefore bow down before him.

**12** The richest among the people, O daughter of Tyre:  
shall entreat your favour with gifts.

**13** The king's daughter is all glorious within:  
her clothing is embroidered cloth-of-gold.

**14** In robes of many colours she is led to you, O king:  
and, after her, the virgins that are with her.

**15** They are led with gladness and rejoicing:  
they enter the palace of the king.

**16** In place of your fathers you shall have sons:  
and make them princes over all the land.

**17** And I will make known your name to every generation:  
therefore the peoples shall give you praise for ever.

## **2nd Reading**

### **Romans 8:18-39**

**18** I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

**19** For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

**20** For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope

**21** that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

**22** We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

**23** Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.

**24** For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have?

**25** But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

**26** In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

**27** And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

**28** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

**29** For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

**30** And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

**31** What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

**32** He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

**33** Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.

**34** Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

**35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

**36** As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

**37** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

**38** For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,

**39** neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **Gospel**

### **Matthew 16:3-20**

**3** and in the morning, ‘Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.

**4** A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah.” Jesus then left them and went away.

### **The Yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees**

**5** When they went across the lake, the disciples forgot to take bread.

**6** “Be careful,” Jesus said to them. “Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

**7** They discussed this among themselves and said, “It is because we didn’t bring any bread.”

**8** Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, “You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread?”

**9** Do you still not understand? Don’t you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered?

**10** Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered?

**11** How is it you don’t understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

**12** Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

**13** When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

**14** They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

**15** “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

**16** Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

**17** Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.

**18** And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

**19** I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

**20** Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.