



Readings for Trinity 8 2021

Introit

Psalm 48:1, 3, 11, 14; antiphon: vv. 9–10

We have thought on your steadfast love, | O God,*
in the midst of your | temple.
As your name, O God, so your praise reaches to the ends | of the earth.*
Your right hand is filled with | righteousness.
Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised*
in the city of our God, his holy | mountain.
Within her | citadels*
God has made himself known as a | fortress.
Let Mount Zion | be glad!*
Let the daughters of Judah rejoice because of your | judgments!
This is God, our God forever and | ever.*
He will guide us for- | ever.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
We have thought on your steadfast love, | O God,*
in the midst of your | temple.
As your name, O God, so your praise reaches to the ends | of the earth.*
Your right hand is filled with | righteousness.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 23:16–29

¹⁶Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. ¹⁷They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, ‘It shall be well with you’; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, ‘No disaster shall come upon you.’”

¹⁸For who among them has stood in the council of the LORD
to see and to hear his word,
or who has paid attention to his word and listened?



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¹⁹Behold, the storm of the LORD!
Wrath has gone forth,
a whirling tempest;
it will burst upon the head of the wicked.

²⁰The anger of the LORD will not turn back
until he has executed and accomplished
the intents of his heart.
In the latter days you will understand it clearly.

²¹"I did not send the prophets,
yet they ran;
I did not speak to them,
yet they prophesied.

²²But if they had stood in my council,
then they would have proclaimed my words to my people,
and they would have turned them from their evil way,
and from the evil of their deeds.

²³"Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God afar off? ²⁴Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' ²⁶How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, ²⁷who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"



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Psalm

Psalm 26; antiphon: v. 12

I Will Bless the LORD

- ¹Vindicate me, O LORD,
for I have walked in my in- | tegrity,*
and I have trusted in the LORD without | wavering.
- ²Prove me, O LORD, and | try me;*
test my heart | and my mind.
- ³For your steadfast love is be- | fore my eyes,*
and I walk in your | faithfulness.
- ⁴I do not sit with men of | falsehood,*
nor do I consort with | hypocrites.
- ⁵I hate the assembly of evil- | doers,*
and I will not sit with the | wicked.
- ⁶I wash my hands in | innocence*
and go around your altar, | O LORD,
- ⁷proclaiming thanksgiving | aloud,*
and telling all your | wondrous deeds.
- ⁸O LORD, I love the habitation | of your house*
and the place where your | glory dwells.
- ⁹Do not sweep my soul away with | sinners,*
nor my life with blood- | thirsty men,
- ¹⁰in whose hands are evil de- | vices,*
and whose right hands are | full of bribes.
- ¹¹But as for me, I shall walk in my in- | tegrity;*
redeem me, and be gra- | cious to me.
- ¹²My foot stands on | level ground;*
in the great assembly I will | bless the LORD.



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Second Reading

Acts 20:27–38

²⁷[Paul said:] “For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. ³²And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘**It is more blessed to give than to receive.**’”

³⁶And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. ³⁷And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, ³⁸being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 7:15–23

A Tree and Its Fruit

¹⁵[Jesus said:] “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.



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I Never Knew You

²¹“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²²On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ ²³And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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