

THE WORD OF GOD

The First Reading

Jeremiah 17:5-10, 14-17

Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings. Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved; for you are my praise. See how they say to me, 'Where is the word of the Lord? Let it come! But I have not run away from being a shepherd in your service, nor have I desired the fatal day. You know what came from my lips; it was before your face. Do not become a terror to me; you are my refuge on the day of disaster;

Psalm 55

Exaudi, Deus

- 1 Hear my prayer, O God; *
do not hide yourself from my petition.
- 2 Listen to me and answer me; *
I have no peace, because of my cares.
- 3 I am shaken by the noise of the enemy *
and by the pressure of the wicked;
- 4 For they have cast an evil spell upon me *
and are set against me in fury.
- 5 My heart quakes within me, *
and the terrors of death have fallen upon me.
- 6 Fear and trembling have come over me, *
and horror overwhelms me.
- 7 And I said, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! *
I would fly away and be at rest.

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8 I would flee to a far-off place *

and make my lodging in the wilderness.

9 I would hasten to escape *

from the stormy wind and tempest."

10 Swallow them up, O Lord; confound their speech; *

for I have seen violence and strife in the city.

11 Day and night the watchmen make their rounds upon her walls, *

but trouble and misery are in the midst of her.

12 There is corruption at her heart; *

her streets are never free of oppression and deceit.

13 For had it been an adversary who taunted me, then I could have borne it; *

or had it been an enemy who vaunted himself against me, then I could have hidden from him.

14 But it was you, a man after my own heart, *

my companion, my own familiar friend.

15 We took sweet counsel together, *

and walked with the throng in the house of God.

16 Let death come upon them suddenly; let them go down alive into the grave; *

for wickedness is in their dwellings, in their very midst.

17 But I will call upon God, *

and the Lord will deliver me.

18 In the evening, in the morning, and at noonday, I will complain and lament, *

and he will hear my voice.

19 He will bring me safely back from the battle waged against me; *

for there are many who fight me.

20 God, who is enthroned of old, will hear me and bring them down; *

they never change; they do not fear God.

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21 My companion stretched forth his hand against his comrade; *
he has broken his covenant.

22 His speech is softer than butter, *
but war is in his heart.

23 His words are smoother than oil, *
but they are drawn swords.

24 Cast your burden upon the Lord, and he will sustain you; *
he will never let the righteous stumble.

25 For you will bring the bloodthirsty and deceitful *
down to the pit of destruction, O God.

26 They shall not live out half their days, *
but I will put my trust in you.

The Second Reading

Philippians 4:1-13

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it. Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all

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circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

The Gospel

John 12:27-36

'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, 'We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?' Jesus said to them, 'The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.' After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.