July 27, 2025 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

The Collect O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; **that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal;** through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Psalm 138

1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, **with my whole heart;** *
before the gods I will sing your praise.
2 I will bow down toward your holy temple
and praise your Name, *
because of your love and faithfulness;
3 For you have glorified your Name *
and your word above all things.
4 **When I called, you answered me; ***
you increased my strength within me.
5 All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, *
when they have heard the words of your mouth.
6 They will sing of the ways of the Lord, *
that great is the glory of the Lord.
7 Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; *
he perceives the haughty from afar.
8 **Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;** * you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.
9 The Lord will make good his purpose for me; *
O Lord, **your love endures for ever;**
do not abandon the works of your hands.

Genesis 18:20-32

The Lord said to Abraham, "How great is **the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah** and how very grave their sin! I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know." So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while **Abraham remained standing before the Lord**. Then Abraham came near and said, **"Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?** Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! **Far be that from you!** Shall not the Judge of all the earth **do what is just?**" And the Lord said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, **I will forgive the whole place for their sake."** Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find **forty-five** there." Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. **Suppose thirty** are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose **twenty** are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." Then he said, "Oh

Luke 11:1-13

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." He said to them, **"When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."** And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, `Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, `Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least **because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.** "So I say to you, **Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.** For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Colossians 2:6-15

As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to **live your lives in him**, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. S**ee to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ.** For in him the whole fullness of **deity dwells bodily**, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a **spiritual circumcision**, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; **when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.** And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands.** He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.