

# Readings + 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 16 A + July 23, 2023

## Prayer of the Day

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

## First Reading Isaiah 44:6-8

<sup>6</sup> Thus says the LORD, the Sovereign of Israel, and Israel's Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:  
I am the first and I am the last;  
besides me there is no god.  
<sup>7</sup> Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,  
let them declare and set it forth before me.  
Who has announced from of old the things to come?  
Let them tell us what is yet to be.  
<sup>8</sup> Do not fear, or be afraid;  
have I not told you from of old and declared it?  
You are my witnesses!  
Is there besides me any other god?  
There is no other rock; I know not one.

## Psalmody Psalm 86:11-17

Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and glorify your name forevermore.**

For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the pit of death.

**The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life; they have not set you before their eyes.**

But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

**Turn to me and have mercy on me; give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**

Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame; because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

## Second Reading Romans 8:12-25

*Paul writes:* <sup>12</sup> So then, my dear family, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— <sup>13</sup> for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup> it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with Christ so that we may also be glorified with Christ.

<sup>18</sup> I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup> for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor; <sup>23</sup> and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what one already sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

## Holy Gospel Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

*Only Matthew includes this parable about the weeds and the wheat.*

<sup>24</sup> Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The dominion of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup> but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and

then went away. <sup>26</sup> So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup> And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ <sup>28</sup> He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup> But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup> Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

<sup>31-32</sup> *The mustard seed (next week’s reading)*

<sup>33</sup> *The yeast (next week’s reading)*

[<sup>34</sup> *Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. <sup>35</sup> This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: “I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world.”*]\*

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” <sup>37</sup> Jesus answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son-of-Man; <sup>38</sup> the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of God’s dominion; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup> and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup> Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup> The Son-of-Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his dominion all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup> and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup> Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the dominion of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

*\*Omitted from the lectionary*