

Readings + 2nd Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 9 B + June 2, 2024

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, throughout time you free the oppressed, heal the sick, and make whole all that you have made. Look with compassion on the world wounded by sin, and by your power restore us to wholeness of life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

First Reading Deuteronomy 5:12-15

¹²“Observe the Sabbath day and keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. ¹³Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁴But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. ¹⁵Remember that you were enslaved in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.”

Psalmody Psalm 81:1-10

Sing with joy to God our strength and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.

Raise a song and sound the timbrel, the merry harp, and the lyre.

Blow the ram’s horn at the new moon, and at the full moon, the day of our feast;

for this is a statute for Israel, a law of the God of Jacob.

God laid it as a solemn charge upon Joseph, going out over the land of Egypt, where I heard a voice I did not know:

“I eased your shoulder from the burden; your hands were set free from the grave-digger’s basket.

You called on me in trouble, and I delivered you; I answered you from the secret place of thunder and tested you at the waters of Meribah.

Hear, O my people, and I will admonish you:

O Israel, if you would but listen to me!

There shall be no strange god among you; you shall not worship a foreign god.

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.”

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

Paul writes: ⁵We do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, “Light will shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

⁷But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. ⁸We are afflicted in every way but not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair, ⁹persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed, ¹⁰always carrying around in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.

¹¹For we who are living are always being handed over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our mortal flesh. ¹²So death is at work in us but life in you.

Holy Gospel Mark 2:23 – 3:6

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all tell both these stories, but there are important differences. 1. Only Mark has Jesus saying “the Sabbath is made for humanity, not humanity for the Sabbath,” the first half of Jesus’ reply. 2. Only Mark says that they specifically watched Jesus to see if he’d heal on the Sabbath, it was intentional. 3. Matthew has Jesus’ comment, “if your sheep falls into a pit on the Sabbath, you’d take it out,” not Mark. 4. Only Mark mentions Jesus’ anger and grief at their “hardness of heart.” 5. Only Mark says the Pharisees teamed up with Herod’s party to plot against Jesus.

²³ One Sabbath [Jesus] was going through the grain fields, and as they made their way the disciples began to pluck heads of grain. ²⁴ The Pharisees said to Jesus, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?”

²⁵ And he said to them, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food, ²⁶ how he entered the house of God when Abiathar was high priest and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions?”

²⁷ Then Jesus said to them, “The Sabbath was made for humanity and not humanity for the Sabbath, ²⁸ so the Son-of-Humanity is lord even of the Sabbath.”

^{3:1} Again Jesus entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. ² They were watching Jesus to see whether he would cure him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. ³ And Jesus said to the man who had the withered hand, “Come forward.”

⁴ Then Jesus said to them, “Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent.

⁵ He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

⁶ The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against Jesus, how to destroy him.