

Gospel: Matthew 10:5a, 21-33

^{5a}These twelve {disciples} Jesus sent out, instructing them,
²¹“Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death,²²and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.²³When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.²⁴A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master.²⁵It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.²⁶So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.²⁷What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.²⁸And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.³⁰But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.³¹Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.³²So everyone who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven,³³but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.”

Lessons for Next Week: Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 119:153-160;
Romans 7:1-13; Matthew 10:34-42

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The
Word
of God



Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 21, 2026

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, in Holy Baptism we have been buried with Christ so that we may walk in newness of life. Marked with the cross of Christ forever, grant us the faith to live a life of steadfast obedience to your will especially in the face of opposition and trials; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13

⁷O Lord, you have deceived me, and I was deceived; you are stronger than I, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all the day; everyone mocks me. ⁸For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, “Violence and destruction!” For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. ⁹If I say, “I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,” there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. ¹⁰For I hear many whispering. Terror is on every side! “Denounce him! Let us denounce him!” say all my close friends, watching for my fall. “Perhaps he will be deceived; then we can overcome him and take our revenge on him.” ¹¹But the Lord is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. ¹²O Lord of hosts, who tests the righteous, who sees the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause. ¹³Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.

Psalm 91:1-16

¹He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.

²**He shall say to the Lord, "You are my refuge and my
stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust."**

³He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter
and from the deadly pestilence.

⁴**He shall cover you with his pinions, and you shall find
refuge under his wings; his faithfulness shall be a shield
and buckler.**

⁵You shall not be afraid of any terror by night,
nor of the arrow that flies by day;

⁶**Of the plague that stalks in the darkness,
nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid day.**

⁷A thousand shall fall at your side and ten thousand at your
right hand, but it shall not come near you.

⁸**Your eyes have only to behold to see the reward of the
wicked.**

⁹Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
and the Most High your habitation,

¹⁰**There shall no evil happen to you,
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.**

¹¹For he shall give his angels charge over you,
to keep you in all your ways.

¹²**They shall bear you in their hands,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.**

¹³You shall tread upon the lion and adder; you shall trample
the young lion and the serpent under your feet.

¹⁴**Because he is bound to me in love, therefore will I deliver
him; I will protect him, because he knows my name.**

¹⁵He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; I am with
him in trouble; I will rescue him and bring him to honor.

¹⁶**With long life will I satisfy him,
and show him my salvation.**

Second Reading: Romans 6:12-23

¹²Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you
obey its passions. ¹³Do not present your members to sin as
instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God
as those who have been brought from death to life, and your
members to God as instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴For sin
will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law
but under grace. ¹⁵What then? Are we to sin because we are not
under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do you not know
that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you
are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads
to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But
thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have
become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to
which you were committed, ¹⁸and, having been set free from
sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in
human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as
you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to
lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your
members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.
²⁰For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to
righteousness. ²¹But what fruit were you getting at that time
from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of
those things is death. ²²But now that you have been set free
from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads
to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is
death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our
Lord.