



Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, through your Son's death and resurrection you draw all creation into your eternal reign. Grant us the grace to recognize the signs of your reign that surround us every day and the faith to proclaim your coming kingdom to those who have yet to experience your mercy and grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 7:6-9

⁶Moses said to the Israelites, "For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations"

Lessons for Next Week: Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 136:1-9 [23-26];
Romans 9:1-5 [6-13]; Matthew 14:13-21

Psalm 125

¹Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but stands fast forever.

²**The hills stand about Jerusalem;
so does the Lord stand round about his people,
from this time forth forevermore.**

³The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway over
the land allotted to the just, so that the just shall not put
their hands to evil.

⁴**Show your goodness, O Lord, to those who are good
and to those who are true of heart.**

⁵As for those who turn aside to crooked ways, the Lord will
lead them away with the evildoers; but peace be upon Israel.

Second Reading: Romans 8:28-39

²⁸We know that for those who love God all things work together
for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be
conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the
firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he
predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also
justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹What
then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be
against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him
up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us
all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It
is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the
one who died — more than that, who was raised — who is at
the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who
shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or
distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or
sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all
the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through
him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life,
nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come,
nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all

creation will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

⁴⁴Jesus said to the disciples, "The kingdom of heaven is like
treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up.
Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that
field. ⁴⁵Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in
search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value,
went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷Again, the
kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea
and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew
it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but
threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The
angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous
⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will
be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹Have you understood all
these things?" They said to him, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them,
"Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom
of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his
treasure what is new and what is old."