

June 21, 2009 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation! Now we are in the storm, the boat almost swamped; but Jesus is here now, and when we call him he will calm the storm. Even the wind and waves listen to him as they would to their creator. We also listen to him and are called to believe in the power of God's word in him, a power greater than all that we fear.

*After a moment of silent meditation to prepare ourselves for worship,
we will begin the liturgy.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Still its storms, calm its fears, and make it an evangelizing witness to your power and justice. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

We give you thanks for the blessings of your creation. Help us find ways to reverse the damage we have done through carelessness and inattentiveness. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all who desire peace but experience conflict, and for those who hope for faith in the middle of the whirlwind. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

We give you thanks for fathers and for all who provide fatherly care and love. Bless and keep them, now and always. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all those in need: the hungry, the homeless, those in prison, the oppressed, victims of war, and the sick and dying. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for this assembly, its presence in this community, and its connections to the world. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks for all who have shared the gospel and cared for its language. Strengthened by their witness, help us to share your saving story. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, you are near to us when we cry out to you. Into your embrace we commend all for whom we pray, through Christ and by the power of your Spirit.

Lector: Please read the introduction, then the citation (i.e.. "The First Reading is from..... chapter of, verses" then the text.)

OLD TESTAMENT READING- *In this passage, the description of the soldier Goliath vividly depicts the superiority of Philistine military might. In contrast, young David is armed with a slingshot and faith in God. David's victory witnesses to the whole earth that "there is a God in Israel."*

1 Samuel 17:32–49

David said to Saul, "Let no one's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy, and

he has been a warrior from his youth." But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father; and whenever a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth; and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it. Your servant has killed both lions and bears; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God." David said, "The LORD, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine." So Saul said to David, "Go, and may the LORD be with you!"

Saul clothed David with his armor; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. David strapped Saul's sword over the armor, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these; for I am not used to them." So David removed them. Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.

The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field." But David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This very day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's and he will give you into our hand." When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 9:9–20

You, O LORD, will be a refuge for the oppressed,
a refuge in time of trouble.

**Those who know your name will put their trust in you,
for you never forsake those who seek you, O LORD.**

Sing praise to the LORD who dwells in Zion;
proclaim to the peoples the things God has done.

**The avenger of blood will remember them
and will not forget the cry of the afflicted.**

Be gracious to me, O LORD;
see the misery I suffer from those who hate me,
you that lift me up from the gates of death;
**so that I may tell of all your praises and rejoice in your salvation
in the gates of the city of Zion.**

The nations have fallen into the pit they dug;
in the snare they set, their own foot is caught.

**The LORD is revealed in acts of justice;
the wicked are trapped in the works of their own hands.**

The nations go down to the grave,
all the peoples that forget God.

**For the needy shall not always be forgotten,
nor shall the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Rise up, O LORD, let not mortals have the upper hand;
let the nations be judged before you.

**Put them in fear, O LORD;
let the nations know they are but mortal.**

SECOND READING- *Paul and his fellow workers experience great hardships and even rejection while carrying out their missionary work. Nevertheless, Paul continuously proclaims that God has not rejected us but is graciously working for our salvation.*

2 Corinthians 6:1–13

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see — we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return — I speak as to children — open wide your hearts also.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING - *Jesus' calming of the storm on the sea reveals his power over evil, since the sea represents evil and chaos. The boat on the sea is a symbol of the church and invites us to trust God amid life's turbulence.*

Mark 4:35–41

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.