

Readings for July 2, 2023

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Jeremiah 28:5-9

⁵The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD; ⁶and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. ⁷But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great realms. ⁹As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

Psalm: Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

¹Your love, O LORD, forever I will sing;

from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

²**For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever;**

you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

³"I have made a covenant with my chosen one;

I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

⁴**I will establish your line forever,**

and preserve your throne for all generations.' " R

¹⁵Happy are the people who know the festal shout!

They walk, O LORD, in the light of your presence.

¹⁶**They rejoice daily in your name;**

they are jubilant in your righteousness.

¹⁷For you are the glory of their strength,

and by your favor our might is exalted.

¹⁸**Truly, our shield belongs to the LORD;**

our king to the Holy One of Israel. R

Second Reading: Romans 6:12-23

¹²Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. ¹³No longer present any parts of your bodies to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your bodies to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵What then? Should we 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, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, ¹⁸and that you, 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 the parts of your bodies as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your bodies as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

²⁰When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²²But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ⁴⁰“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”