



## DAY OF THANKSGIVING

### FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

A reading from Deuteronomy.

<sup>1</sup>When you have come into the land  
that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess,  
and you possess it, and settle in it,  
<sup>2</sup>you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground,  
which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you,  
and you shall put it in a basket  
and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose  
as a dwelling for his name.  
<sup>3</sup>You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him,  
“Today I declare to the LORD your God  
that I have come into the land  
that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.”

<sup>4</sup>When the priest takes the basket from your hand  
and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God,  
<sup>5</sup>you shall make this response before the LORD your God:  
“A wandering Aramean was my ancestor;  
he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number,  
and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous.  
<sup>6</sup>When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us,  
by imposing hard labor on us,  
<sup>7</sup>we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors;  
the LORD heard our voice  
and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.  
<sup>8</sup>The LORD brought us out of Egypt  
with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm,  
with a terrifying display of power,  
and with signs and wonders;  
<sup>9</sup>and he brought us into this place and gave us this land,  
a land flowing with milk and honey.  
<sup>10</sup>So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground  
that you, O LORD, have given me.”  
You shall set it down before the LORD your God  
and bow down before the LORD your God.

---

**FIRST READING** *Deuteronomy = dew-ter-ON-uh-me Aramean = air-uh-MEE-un Levites = LEE-vytz*  
This reading opens with the sound of ritual instruction (verses 1-4). The hymn recounting the history of Israel (verses 5-10) might profit from a very different sound. Be drawn into the recollection of that history and allow the hymn to build to a joyful climax in verse 9. Pause before the conclusion in verse 10a. Then recapture the instructional sound of the earlier verses to conclude the reading.

<sup>11</sup>Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

The word of the Lord.            *or*            Word of God, word of life.

**PSALMODY: Psalm 100**

**SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-9**

A reading from Philippians.

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always;  
again I will say, Rejoice.

<sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone.  
The Lord is near.

<sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything,  
but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving  
let your requests be made known to God.

<sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable,  
whatever is just, whatever is pure,  
whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable,  
if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise,  
think about these things.

<sup>9</sup>Keep on doing the things that you have learned  
and received and heard and seen in me,  
and the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.            *or*            Word of God, word of life.

---

**SECOND READING**    *Philippians = fih-LIP-ee-uns*

"Rejoice" not only has a sound, but a look. The demeanor of the reader is as critical as the reader's preparation. Do not hesitate to smile while at the reading desk. Bring the joy and love that was clearly in the author's heart to your face as well as your voice.

## **GOSPEL: John 6:25-35**

The holy gospel according to John.

<sup>25</sup>When [the disciples] found [Jesus] on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?”

<sup>26</sup>Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.

<sup>27</sup>Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.”

<sup>28</sup>Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?”

<sup>29</sup>Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

<sup>30</sup>So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?”

<sup>31</sup>Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

<sup>32</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.

<sup>33</sup>For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

<sup>34</sup>They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

<sup>35</sup>Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

The gospel of the Lord.

---

### **GOSPEL**

The voice of the patient teacher might profit from just a bit of an edge in this reading, especially in the early going. The progression of thought needs time to develop in the mind of the hearer (who, unlike the reader, is getting only one chance to hear it). Consider emphasizing the “I AM” rather than “the bread of life” in verse 35a to help the hearer embrace John’s meaningful repetition of the phrase.