



SUNDAY, JULY 3–9

TIME AFTER PENTECOST — LECTIONARY 14

FIRST READING: Isaiah 66:10-14

A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁰Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,
all you who love her;

rejoice with her in joy,
all you who mourn over her—

¹¹that you may nurse and be satisfied
from her consoling breast;
that you may drink deeply with delight
from her glorious bosom.

¹²For thus says the LORD:
I will extend prosperity to her like a river,
and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream;
and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm,
and dandled on her knees.

¹³As a mother comforts her child,
so I will comfort you;
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

¹⁴You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice;
your bodies shall flourish like the grass;
and it shall be known that the hand of the LORD is with his servants,
and his indignation is against his enemies.

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

PSALMODY: Psalm 66:1-9

FIRST READING *Isaiah = eye-ZAY-uh*

This is a poem of rejoicing. From the first verse it requires a joyful heart. The image is of God's people nursing at the breast of Jerusalem, the city that symbolizes the presence of God among God's people. At verse 13 it becomes clear that God is the source of the nourishment and the cause for great rejoicing. Give this a big, bold reading!

SECOND READING: Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16

A reading from Galatians.

[¹My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness.

Take care that you yourselves are not tempted.

²Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

³For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves.

⁴All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride.

⁵For all must carry their own loads.

⁶Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.]

⁷Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow.

⁸If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit.

⁹So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.

¹⁰So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

¹¹See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand!

¹²It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised— only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ.

¹³Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh.

¹⁴May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

¹⁵For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything!

¹⁶As for those who will follow this rule— peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

The word of the Lord.

or

Word of God, word of life.

SECOND READING *Galatians = guh-LAY-shunz*

There is a considerable amount of instruction in these verses and therein lies the challenge for the reader. It is crucial that these lessons be laid out lovingly. Celebrate "a spirit of gentleness," "work(ing) for the good of all." The author is obviously making every effort to speak the truth in love.

GOSPEL: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

The holy gospel according to Luke.

¹After this the Lord appointed seventy others
and sent them on ahead of him in pairs
to every town and place where he himself intended to go.
²He said to them,
“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;
therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.
³Go on your way.
See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves.
⁴Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road.
⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’
⁶And if anyone is there who shares in peace,
your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you.
⁷Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide,
for the laborer deserves to be paid.
Do not move about from house to house.
⁸Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you,
eat what is set before you;
⁹cure the sick who are there, and say to them,
‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’
¹⁰But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you,
go out into its streets and say,
¹¹‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet,
we wipe off in protest against you.
Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.’”

¹⁶“Whoever listens to you listens to me,
and whoever rejects you rejects me,
and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.”

¹⁷The seventy returned with joy, saying,
“Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!”
¹⁸He said to them,
“I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning.
¹⁹See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions,
and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you.
²⁰Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you,
but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

The gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL

Work at a sense of Jesus’ speaking to his disciples, not reading them a list of apostolic instructions. Give his directions a sense of spontaneity. Separate one from another with thoughtful pauses. Set up the apostles’ return with a significant pause between verses 16 and 17.