



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30–NOVEMBER 5

TIME AFTER PENTECOST — LECTIONARY 31

FIRST READING: Isaiah 1:10-18

A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD,
you rulers of Sodom!

Listen to the teaching of our God,
you people of Gomorrah!

¹¹What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?
says the LORD;

I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams
and the fat of fed beasts;

I do not delight in the blood of bulls,
or of lambs, or of goats.

¹²When you come to appear before me,
who asked this from your hand?

Trample my courts no more;

¹³bringing offerings is futile;
incense is an abomination to me.

New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation
I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.

¹⁴Your new moons and your appointed festivals
my soul hates;

they have become a burden to me,
I am weary of bearing them.

¹⁵When you stretch out your hands,
I will hide my eyes from you;

even though you make many prayers,
I will not listen;

your hands are full of blood.

¹⁶Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;
remove the evil of your doings

from before my eyes;

cease to do evil,

¹⁷learn to do good;

seek justice,

FIRST READING *Isaiah = eye-ZAY-uh*

Angry words from an outraged God start off this gospel. God is thoroughly worn out by the worship and the stewardship of the people and is letting them know it—in no uncertain terms. Help the assembly to hear God's righteous wrath! Then help them hear the transition to God's earnest pleading with the people to change their ways and find forgiveness.

rescue the oppressed,
defend the orphan,
plead for the widow.

¹⁸Come now, let us argue it out,
says the LORD:
though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be like snow;
though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool.

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

PSALMODY: Psalm 32:1-7

SECOND READING: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

A reading from Second Thessalonians.

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians
in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³We must always give thanks to God for you,
brothers and sisters, as is right,
because your faith is growing abundantly,
and the love of everyone of you for one another is increasing.

⁴Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God
for your steadfastness and faith
during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring.

¹¹To this end we always pray for you,
asking that our God will make you worthy of his call
and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith,

¹²so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you,
and you in him,
according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

SECOND READING *Thessalonians = thes-uh-LOHN-ee-unz Silvanus = sil-VAY-nus*
These are ardent words of greeting and assurance. Give the reading the sense of pride described in verse 4.

GOSPEL: Luke 19:1-10

The holy gospel according to Luke.

- ¹Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it.
²A man was there named Zacchaeus;
he was a chief tax collector and was rich.
³He was trying to see who Jesus was,
but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature.
⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him,
because he was going to pass that way.
⁵When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him,
“Zacchaeus, hurry and come down;
for I must stay at your house today.”
⁶So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him.
⁷All who saw it began to grumble and said,
“He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.”
⁸Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord,
“Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor;
and if I have defrauded anyone of anything,
I will pay back four times as much.”
⁹Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house,
because he too is a son of Abraham.
¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”

The gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL *Zacchaeus = zak-EE-us*

This is an extremely cinematic gospel. See the action. Help the assembly to see the action with its ears. It is a familiar and delightfully written story. Savor it.