

# Sunday, October 10, 2021 – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

## First Reading: Amos 5

*Amos was a herdsman by profession and a prophet by God's call. The prophet from the south speaks to the wealthy upper class in the north, warning them that fulfilling God's demand for justice brings blessing, while corruption and oppression incur God's wrath.*

6 - Seek the LORD and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.

10 - They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

11 - Because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine.

12 - For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins— you afflict the righteous, take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate.

15 - Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate.

23 – Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

24 – But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

## Psalm: Psalm 90 – A Prayer of Moses, the man of God

*Moses spent the first forty years of his life as the son of Pharaoh's daughter – pampered and spoiled. He spent the next forty years of his life herding the flocks of his father-in-law, Jethro, learning how to control his temper and how to survive in the wilderness. It was only at the age of eighty that Moses was ready to do his great life work – leading God's people out of Egypt and through the wilderness for forty years.*

*If you are younger than eighty, God might still be preparing you for your great life work.*

*How would you see these verses applying to the various periods of and events in Moses' life?*

12 - Teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

13 - Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? Be gracious to your servants.

14 - Satisfy us by your steadfast love in the morning; so shall we rejoice and be glad all our days.

15 - Make us glad as many days as you afflicted us and as many years as we suffered adversity.

16 - Show your servants your works, and your splendor to their children.

17 - May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper the work of our hands.

## Second Reading: Hebrews 4:12-16

*Ephesians 6: 17 describes the Word of God as like a sword, with which we can fight off the attacks of the evil one.*

*Hebrews 4: 12 describes the Word of God as like a sword, which cuts through our excuses, pretenses, and coverups.*

12 - The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

13 - Before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

*How have you experienced the word of God as living and active?*

*When and how has it cut through and laid bare the thoughts and intentions of your heart?*

14 - Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession.

15-16 - For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

*Do you see God's throne as a throne of grace? Why or why not?*

*Do you feel that you can approach it with boldness? Why or why not?*

*When have you received mercy and found grace to help in time of need – just in the nick of time?*

### **Gospel: Mark 10:17-31**

17 – A man ran up, knelt before Jesus, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

*Matthew 19 calls him a “young man.” Luke 18 calls him “a certain ruler.”*

18-19 - Jesus said to him, “You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’”

20 - He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.”

21 - Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”

22 - When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

23-25 - Jesus said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

26 - They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?”

27 - Jesus said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

28 - Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” (Luke 5: 11 vs. Mark 1: 18)

29-30 - Jesus said, “There is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions (unique in Mark) — and in the age to come eternal life.