

Week of September 18, 2011

**SUNDAY**

**READING 1 IS 55:6-9**

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call him while he is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked his thoughts; let him turn to the LORD for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM PS 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18**

**R. (18a) The Lord is near to all who call upon him.**

Every day will I bless you,  
and I will praise your name forever and ever.  
Great is the LORD and highly to be praised;  
his greatness is unsearchable.

**R. The Lord is near to all who call upon him.**

The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

The LORD is good to all  
and compassionate toward all his works.

**R. The Lord is near to all who call upon him.**

The LORD is just in all his ways  
and holy in all his works.

The LORD is near to all who call upon him,  
to all who call upon him in truth.

**R. The Lord is near to all who call upon him.**

**READING 2 PHIL 1:20C-24, 27A**

Brothers and sisters:

Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me life is Christ, and death is gain. If I go on living in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. And I do not know which I shall choose. I am caught between the two. I long to depart this life and be with Christ, for that is far better. Yet that I remain in the flesh is more necessary for your benefit. Only, conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of

Christ.

**GOSPEL MT 20:1-16A**

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. Going out about nine o'clock, the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.' So they went off. And he went out again around noon, and around three o'clock, and did likewise. Going out about five o'clock, the landowner found others standing around, and said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They answered, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard.' When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.' When those who had started about five o'clock came, each received the usual daily wage. So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage. And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day's burden and the heat.' He said to one of them in reply, 'My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?' Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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**MONDAY**

**READING 1 EZ 1:1-6**

In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, in order to

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fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD inspired King Cyrus of Persia to issue this proclamation throughout his kingdom, both by word of mouth and in writing: "Thus says Cyrus, king of Persia: 'All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD, the God of heaven, has given to me, and he has also charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Therefore, whoever among you belongs to any part of his people, let him go up, and may his God be with him! Let everyone who has survived, in whatever place he may have dwelt, be assisted by the people of that place with silver, gold, goods, and cattle, together with free-will offerings for the house of God in Jerusalem.'"

Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin and the priests and Levites- everyone, that is, whom God had inspired to do so- prepared to go up to build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem. All their neighbors gave them help in every way, with silver, gold, goods, and cattle, and with many precious gifts besides all their free-will offerings.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM PS 126:1B-2AB, 2CD-3, 4-5, 6**

**R. (3) The Lord has done marvels for us.**

When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion, we were like men dreaming.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing.

**R. The Lord has done marvels for us.**

Then they said among the nations,

"The LORD has done great things for them."

The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad indeed.

**R. The Lord has done marvels for us.**

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,

like the torrents in the southern desert.

Those that sow in tears

shall reap rejoicing.

**R. The Lord has done marvels for us.**

Although they go forth weeping,

carrying the seed to be sown,

They shall come back rejoicing,

carrying their sheaves.

**R. The Lord has done marvels for us.**

**GOSPEL LK 8:16-18**

Jesus said to the crowd:

"No one who lights a lamp conceals it with a vessel or sets it under a bed; rather, he places it on a lampstand so that those who enter may see the light. For there is nothing hidden that will not become visible, and nothing secret that will not be known and come to light. Take care, then, how you hear. To anyone who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he seems to have will be taken away."

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**TUESDAY**

**READING 1 EZ 6:7-8, 12B, 14-20**

King Darius issued an order to the officials of West-of-Euphrates: "Let the governor and the elders of the Jews continue the work on that house of God; they are to rebuild it on its former site. I also issue this decree concerning your dealing with these elders of the Jews in the rebuilding of that house of God: From the royal revenue, the taxes of West-of-Euphrates, let these men be repaid for their expenses, in full and without delay. I, Darius, have issued this decree; let it be carefully executed."

The elders of the Jews continued to make progress in the building, supported by the message of the prophets, Haggai and Zechariah, son of Iddo. They finished the building according to the command of the God of Israel and the decrees of Cyrus and Darius

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and of Artaxerxes, king of Persia. They completed this house on the third day of the month Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius. The children of Israel—priests, Levites, and the other returned exiles—celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy. For the dedication of this house of God, they offered one hundred bulls, two hundred rams, and four hundred lambs, together with twelve he-goats as a sin-offering for all Israel, in keeping with the number of the tribes of Israel. Finally, they set up the priests in their classes and the Levites in their divisions for the service of God in Jerusalem, as is prescribed in the book of Moses.

The exiles kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month. The Levites, every one of whom had purified himself for the occasion, sacrificed the Passover for the rest of the exiles, for their brethren the priests, and for themselves.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM PS 122:1-2, 3-4AB, 4CD-5**

**R. (1) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

I rejoiced because they said to me,  
"We will go up to the house of the LORD."

And now we have set foot  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

**R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

Jerusalem, built as a city  
with compact unity.

To it the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the LORD.

**R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

According to the decree for Israel,  
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

In it are set up judgment seats,  
seats for the house of David.

**R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

**GOSPEL LK 8:19-21**

The mother of Jesus and his brothers came to him but were unable to join him because of the crowd. He was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside and they wish to see you." He said to them in reply, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it."

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**WEDNESDAY**

**READING 1 EPH 4:1-7, 11-13**

Brothers and sisters:

I, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace: one Body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

And he gave some as Apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the Body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM PS 19:2-3, 4-5**

**R. (5) Their message goes out through all the earth.**

The heavens declare the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day pours out the word to day,  
and night to night imparts knowledge.

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**R. Their message goes out through all the earth.**

Not a word nor a discourse  
whose voice is not heard;

Through all the earth their voice resounds,  
and to the ends of the world, their message.

**R. Their message goes out through all the earth.**

#### GOSPEL MT 9:9-13

As Jesus passed by, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" He heard this and said, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, *I desire mercy, not sacrifice*. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

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#### THURSDAY

#### READING 1 HG 1:1-8

On the first day of the sixth month in the second year of King Darius, The word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai to the governor of Judah, Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, and to the high priest Joshua, son of Jehozadak:

Thus says the LORD of hosts:

This people says: "The time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the LORD." (Then this word of the LORD came through Haggai, the prophet:) Is it time for you to dwell in your own paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?

Now thus says the LORD of hosts:

Consider your ways! You have sown much, but have

brought in little; you have eaten, but have not been satisfied; You have drunk, but have not been exhilarated; have clothed yourselves, but not been warmed; And whoever earned wages earned them for a bag with holes in it.

Thus says the LORD of hosts:

Consider your ways! Go up into the hill country; bring timber, and build the house That I may take pleasure in it and receive my glory, says the LORD.

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM PS 149:1B-2, 3-4, 5-6A AND 9B

**R. (see 4a) The Lord takes delight in his people.**

Sing to the LORD a new song  
of praise in the assembly of the faithful.  
Let Israel be glad in their maker,  
let the children of Zion rejoice in their king.

**R. The Lord takes delight in his people.**

Let them praise his name in the festive dance,  
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.  
For the LORD loves his people,  
and he adorns the lowly with victory.

**R. The Lord takes delight in his people.**

Let the faithful exult in glory;  
let them sing for joy upon their couches;  
Let the high praises of God be in their throats.  
This is the glory of all his faithful. Alleluia.

**R. The Lord takes delight in his people.**

#### GOSPEL LK 9:7-9

Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was greatly perplexed because some were saying, "John has been raised from the dead; others were saying, "Elijah has appeared; still others, "One of the ancient prophets has arisen." But Herod said, "John I beheaded. Who then is this about whom I hear such things?" And he kept trying to see him.

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**FRIDAY**

**READING 1 HG 2:1-9**

In the second year of King Darius, on the twenty-first day of the seventh month, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: Tell this to the governor of Judah, Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, and to the high priest Joshua, son of Jehozadak, and to the remnant of the people:

Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? And how do you see it now? Does it not seem like nothing in your eyes? But now take courage, Zerubbabel, says the LORD, and take courage, Joshua, high priest, son of Jehozadak, And take courage, all you people of the land, says the LORD, and work! For I am with you, says the LORD of hosts. This is the pact that I made with you when you came out of Egypt, And my spirit continues in your midst; do not fear! For thus says the LORD of hosts: One moment yet, a little while, and I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all the nations, and the treasures of all the nations will come in, And I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of hosts. Mine is the silver and mine the gold, says the LORD of hosts. Greater will be the future glory of this house than the former, says the LORD of hosts; And in this place I will give you peace, says the LORD of hosts!

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM PS 43:1, 2, 3, 4**

**R. (5) Hope in God; I will praise him, my savior and my God.**

Do me justice, O God, and fight my fight  
against a faithless people;  
from the deceitful and impious man rescue me.

**R. Hope in God; I will praise him, my savior and my God.**

For you, O God, are my strength.  
Why do you keep me so far away?  
Why must I go about in mourning,

with the enemy oppressing me?

**R. Hope in God; I will praise him, my savior and my God.**

Send forth your light and your fidelity;  
they shall lead me on  
And bring me to your holy mountain,  
to your dwelling place.

**R. Hope in God; I will praise him, my savior and my God.**

Then will I go in to the altar of God,  
the God of my gladness and joy;  
Then will I give you thanks upon the harp,  
O God, my God!

**R. Hope in God; I will praise him, my savior and my God.**

**GOSPEL LK 9:18-22**

Once when Jesus was praying in solitude, and the disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" They said in reply, "John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others, "One of the ancient prophets has arisen.'" Then he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter said in reply, "The Christ of God." He rebuked them and directed them not to tell this to anyone.

He said, "The Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised."

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**SATURDAY**

**READING 1 ZEC 2:5-9, 14-15A**

I, Zechariah, raised my eyes and looked: there was a man with a measuring line in his hand. I asked, "Where are you going?" He answered, "To measure Jerusalem, to see how great is its width and how great its length."

Then the angel who spoke with me advanced, and

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another angel came out to meet him and said to him, "Run, tell this to that young man: People will live in Jerusalem as though in open country, because of the multitude of men and beasts in her midst. But I will be for her an encircling wall of fire, says the LORD, and I will be the glory in her midst."

was hidden from them and they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion! See, I am coming to dwell among you, says the LORD. Many nations shall join themselves to the LORD on that day, and they shall be his people and he will dwell among you.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM JER 31:10, 11-12AB, 13**

**R. (see 10d) The Lord will guard us as a shepherd guards his flock.**

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
proclaim it on distant isles, and say:

He who scattered Israel, now gathers them together,  
he guards them as a shepherd guards his flock.

**R. The Lord will guard us as a shepherd guards his flock.**

The LORD shall ransom Jacob,  
he shall redeem him from the hand of his conqueror.  
Shouting, they shall mount the heights of Zion,  
they shall come streaming to the LORD's blessings.

**R. The Lord will guard us as a shepherd guards his flock.**

Then the virgins shall make merry and dance,  
and young men and old as well.

I will turn their mourning into joy,

I will console and gladden them after their sorrows.

**R. The Lord will guard us as a shepherd guards his flock.**

**GOSPEL LK 9:43B-45**

While they were all amazed at his every deed, Jesus said to his disciples, "Pay attention to what I am telling you. The Son of Man is to be handed over to men." But they did not understand this saying; its meaning