

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Collect

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your grace that your faithful people offer you true and laudable service: Grant that we may run without stumbling to obtain your heavenly promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Lesson: Nehemiah 9:16-21

“But they and our fathers acted presumptuously and stiffened their neck and did not obey your commandments. They refused to obey and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them, but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them. Even when they had made for themselves a golden calf and said, ‘This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt,’ and had committed great blasphemies, you in your great mercies did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of cloud to lead them in the way did not depart from them by day, nor the pillar of fire by night to light for them the way by which they should go. You gave your good Spirit to instruct them and did not withhold your manna from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst. Forty years you sustained them in the wilderness, and they lacked nothing. Their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 78:14-25

- 14 In the daytime he led them with a cloud, *
and all the night with a fiery light.
- 15 He split rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.
- 16 He made streams come out of the rock *
and caused waters to flow down like rivers.
- 17 Yet they sinned still more against him, *
rebellng against the Most High in the desert.
- 18 They tested God in their heart *
by demanding the food they craved.
- 19 They spoke against God, saying, *
“Can God spread a table in the wilderness?”
- 20 He struck the rock so that water gushed out and streams
overflowed.*
Can he also give bread or provide meat for his people?”
- 21 Therefore, when the Lord heard, he was full of wrath; *
a fire was kindled against Jacob; his anger rose against Israel,
- 22 because they did not believe in God *
and did not trust his saving power.
- 23 Yet he commanded the skies above *
and opened the doors of heaven,
- 24 and he rained down on them manna to eat *
and gave them the grain of heaven.

25 Man ate of the bread of the angels; *
he sent them food in abundance.

We say together:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.

Second Lesson: Romans 8:35-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." But Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, Lord Christ.