



SUNDAY, AUGUST 14–20

TIME AFTER PENTECOST — LECTIONARY 20

Year C, Complementary Series

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23-29

A reading from Jeremiah.

²³Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off?

²⁴Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD.

Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD.

²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said
who prophesy lies in my name, saying,
“I have dreamed! I have dreamed!”

²⁶How long?

Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—
those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart?

²⁷They plan to make my people forget my name
by their dreams that they tell one another,
just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal.

²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream,
but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully.
What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD.

²⁹Is not my word like fire, says the LORD,
and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

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

PSALMODY: Psalm 82

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:29—12:2

A reading from Hebrews.

²⁹By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land,
but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned.

³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days.

³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient,
because she had received the spies in peace.

³²And what more should I say?

For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah,
of David and Samuel and the prophets,

³³who through faith conquered realms, administered justice,
obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions,

³⁴quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword,
were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war,
put foreign armies to flight.

³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection.

Others were tortured, refusing to accept release,
in order to obtain a better resurrection.

³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment.

³⁷They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two;
they were killed by the sword;
they went about in skins of sheep and goats,
destitute, persecuted, tormented—

³⁸of whom the world was not worthy.

They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith,
did not receive what was promised,

⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not,
apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1}Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,
and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,

²looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith,
who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross,
disregarding its shame,
and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 12:49-56

The holy gospel according to Luke.

⌈Jesus said, ⌋⁴⁹“I have come to cast fire upon the earth,
and how I wish it were already ablaze!

⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized,
and what constraint I am under until it is completed!

⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth?
No, I tell you, but rather division!

⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided,
three against two and two against three;

⁵³they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
and in-laws against one another.”

⁵⁴Jesus also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west,
you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens.

⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say,
‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens.

⁵⁶You hypocrites!
You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky,
but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

The gospel of the Lord.