



SUNDAY, JUNE 26–JULY 2

TIME AFTER PENTECOST — LECTIONARY 13

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 28:5-9

A reading from Jeremiah.

⁵The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah
in the presence of the priests
and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD,
⁶and the prophet Jeremiah said,
“Amen! May the LORD do so;
may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied
and bring back to this place from Babylon
the vessels of the house of the LORD and all the exiles.
⁷But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing
and in the hearing of all the people.
⁸The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times
prophesied war, famine, and pestilence
against many countries and great kingdoms.
⁹As for the prophet who prophesies peace,
when the word of that prophet comes true,
then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet.”

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

PSALMODY: Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

FIRST READING *Jeremiah = jehr-uh-MY-uh Hananiah = han-uh-NY-uh*

Babylon = BAB-ih-lon prophesied(s) = PROF-uh-sighed(s)

A dispute among prophets! Jeremiah is responding to Hananiah's prophecy of the return of the people of Israel, who have been in exile in Babylon. In essence Jeremiah says, "I hope and pray that you are right." Previous prophets prophesied war and famine. People knew they were genuine prophets because war and famine followed. The conclusion Jeremiah draws in verse 9 is that we will know that the LORD has sent the prophet who prophesies peace when the prophecy becomes true. Give Jeremiah a voice of calm assurance—strength in the knowledge that God speaks through him.

SECOND READING: Romans 6:12-23

A reading from Romans.

¹²Do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies,
so that you obey their desires.

¹³No longer present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness,
but present yourselves to God
as those who have been brought from death to life,
and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness.

¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you,
since you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵What then?

Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace?

By no means!

¹⁶Do you not know that,
if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves,
you are slaves of the one whom you obey,
either of sin, which leads to death,
or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?

¹⁷But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin
have become obedient from the heart
to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted

¹⁸and that you, having been set free from sin,
have become enslaved to righteousness.

¹⁹I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations.

For just as you once presented your members
as slaves to impurity and lawlessness,
leading to even more lawlessness,
so now present your members as slaves to righteousness,
leading to sanctification.

²⁰When you were slaves of sin,
you were free in regard to righteousness.

²¹So what fruit did you then gain
from the things of which you now are ashamed?
The end of those things is death. ►

SECOND READING

This is a tough one! The writer contrasts being a slave to sin with being a slave to righteousness. It's a tricky analogy for our day, and it will require some careful reading and rereading (out loud!) to be certain the lector follows the argument and can help the hearer follow it. Again, pay careful attention to the punctuation. It will provide the hearer with the time needed to grasp the author's argument.

²²But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God,
the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life.
²³For the wages of sin is death,
but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 10:40-42

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

「Jesus said to the twelve:」

⁴⁰“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me,
and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.
⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet
will receive a prophet’s reward,
and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person
will receive the reward of the righteous,
⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones
in the name of a disciple—
truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

The gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL

Many hearers may be familiar with the great commission as recorded at the end of Matthew’s gospel. One might productively think of this little text as “cold water commissioning.” Jesus emphasizes the connection the disciples have with him and, in turn, with the Father. The reward, for even so small a gesture as a cup of cold water for a child, is certain. Stress the warm assurance in the last line.