

**COLLECT:** *(Remain Standing)*

O God, whose Spirit guides us into all truth and makes us free: Strengthen and sustain us as you did your servant Harriet Ross Tubman. Give us vision and courage to stand against oppression and injustice and all that works against the glorious liberty to which you call all your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**First Reading: Genesis 45:1-15** *(Please be seated)*

Reader: A reading from the book of **Genesis**.

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, 'Send everyone away from me.' So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?' But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came closer. He said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty." And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honoured in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.' Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**

## Psalm 78:1-39

Reader: Let us pray together the words of **Psalm 78**.

1 Hear my teaching, O my people; \*  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable; \*  
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

3 That which we have heard and known,  
and what our forefathers have told us, \*  
we will not hide from their children.

4 We will recount to generations to come the  
praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, \*  
and the wonderful works he has done.

5 He gave his decrees to Jacob  
and established a law for Israel, \*  
which he commanded them to teach their  
children;

6 That the generations to come might know,  
and the children yet unborn; \*  
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

7 So that they might put their trust in God, \*  
and not forget the deeds of God,  
but keep his commandments;

8 And not be like their forefathers,  
a stubborn and rebellious generation, \*  
a generation whose heart was not steadfast,  
and whose spirit was not faithful to God.

9 The people of Ephraim, armed with the bow, \*  
turned back in the day of battle;

10 They did not keep the covenant of God, \*  
and refused to walk in his law;

11 They forgot what he had done, \*  
and the wonders he had shown them.

12 He worked marvels in the sight of their  
forefathers, \*  
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; \*  
he made the waters stand up like walls.

14 He led them with a cloud by day, \*  
and all the night through with a glow of fire.

15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness \*  
and gave them drink as from the great deep.

16 He brought streams out of the cliff, \*  
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

17 But they went on sinning against him, \*  
rebellious in the desert against the Most High.

18 They tested God in their hearts, \*  
demanding food for their craving.

19 They railed against God and said, \*  
"Can God set a table in the wilderness?"

20 True, he struck the rock, the waters gushed out,  
and the gullies overflowed; \*  
but is he able to give bread or to provide meat for  
his people?"

21 When the Lord heard this, he was full of wrath; \*  
a fire was kindled against Jacob,  
and his anger mounted against Israel;

22 For they had no faith in God, \*  
nor did they put their trust in his saving power.

23 So he commanded the clouds above \*  
and opened the doors of heaven.

24 He rained down manna upon them to eat \*  
and gave them grain from heaven.

25 So mortals ate the bread of angels; \*  
he provided for them food enough.

26 He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens \*  
and led out the south wind by his might.

27 He rained down flesh upon them like dust \*  
and winged birds like the sand of the sea.

28 He let it fall in the midst of their camp \*  
and round about their dwellings.

29 So they ate and were well filled, \*  
for he gave them what they craved.

30 But they did not stop their craving, \*  
though the food was still in their mouths.

31 So God's anger mounted against them; \*  
he slew their strongest men  
and laid low the youth of Israel.

32 In spite of all this, they went on sinning \*  
and had no faith in his wonderful works.

33 So he brought their days to an end like a breath \*  
and their years in sudden terror.

34 Whenever he slew them, they would seek him, \*  
and repent, and diligently search for God.

35 They would remember that God was their rock, \*  
and the Most High God their redeemer.

36 But they flattered him with their mouths \*  
and lied to him with their tongues.

37 Their heart was not steadfast toward him, \*  
and they were not faithful to his covenant.

38 But he was so merciful that he forgave their sins  
and did not destroy them; \*

many times he held back his anger and did not  
permit his wrath to be roused.

39 For he remembered that they were but flesh, \*  
a breath that goes forth and does not return.

## **1 Corinthians 7:32-40** *(Please be seated)*

Reader: A reading from the First book of **Corinthians**.

I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the affairs of the Lord, how to please the Lord; but the married man is anxious about the affairs of the world, how to please his wife, and his interests are divided. And the unmarried woman and the virgin are anxious about the affairs of the Lord, so that they may be holy in body and spirit; but the married woman is anxious about the affairs of the world, how to please her husband. I say this for your own benefit, not to put any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and unhindered devotion to the Lord.

If anyone thinks that he is not behaving properly towards his fiancée, if his passions are strong, and so it has to be, let him marry as he wishes; it is no sin. Let them marry. But if someone stands firm in his resolve, being under no necessity but having his own desire under control, and has determined in his own mind to keep her as his fiancée, he will do well. So then, he who marries his fiancée does well; and he who refrains from marriage will do better.

A wife is bound as long as her husband lives. But if the husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, only in the Lord. But in my judgement she is more blessed if she remains as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**

## **Mark 6:1-13** *(Please stand as you are able)*

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Mark**.

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

He left that place and came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, 'Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.' So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Christ**