The Word of God



Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost *October 31, 2021*

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, O Lord, because the more they are inclined to bear the fruit of your good work, the more generously they will receive your gracious healing. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 6:1-9

1"Now this is the commandment — the statutes and the rules — that the LORD your
God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you
are going over, to possess it, 2that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your
son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which
I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. 3Hear
therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and
that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised
you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. 4Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the
LORD is one. 5You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your
soul and with all your might. 6And these words that I command you today shall be
on your heart. 7You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of
them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie
down, and when you rise. 8You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they
shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9You shall write them on the doorposts of
your house and on your gates."

Psalm 119:1-8

1Happy are they whose | way is blameless,*
who walk in the law | of the LORD!
2Happy are they who observe | his decrees*
and seek him with | all their hearts!
3Who never do | any wrong,*
but always walk | in his ways.
4You laid down | your commandments,*
that we should | fully keep them.
5Oh, that my ways were made | so direct*
that I might | keep your statutes!
6Then I should not be | put to shame,*
when I regard all | your commandments.
7I will thank you with an | unfeigned heart,*
when I have learned your | righteous judgments.
8I will | keep your statutes;*
do not utter- | ly forsake me.

Second Reading: Hebrews 9:11-22

11But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come,
then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is,
not of this creation) 12he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means
of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing
an eternal redemption. 13For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of
defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh,
14how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered
himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve
the living God.15Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who
are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred
that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.
16For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established.
17For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who
made it is alive. 18Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without
blood. 19For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to
all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool
and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, 20saying, "This is
the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you." 21And in the same way he
sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. 22Indeed,
under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding
of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

Gospel: Mark 12:28-37

28One of the scribes came up and heard {Jesus and the Sadducees} disputing with
one another, and seeing that {Jesus} answered them well, asked him, "Which
commandment is the most important of all?" 29Jesus answered, "The most important
is, 'Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 30And you shall love the LORD
your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with
all your strength.' 31The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'
There is no other commandment greater than these." 32And the scribe said to him,
"You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other
besides him. 33And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding
and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than
all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." 34And when Jesus saw that he answered
wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that
no one dared to ask him any more questions. 35And as Jesus taught in the temple, he
said, "How can the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? 36David himself,
in the Holy Spirit, declared, 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I
put your enemies under your feet."' 37David himself calls him Lord. So how is he his
son?" And the great throng heard him gladly.

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