

The Ministry of the Word

FIRST READING

Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

Isaiah 56.1, 6–8

PSALM

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

let all the peoples praise you.

1 May God be merciful to us and bless us,
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.

2 Let your ways be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

let all the peoples praise you.

4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

let all the peoples praise you.

6 The earth has brought forth her increase;
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.

7 May God give us his blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe
of him.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

let all the peoples praise you.

Psalms 67

THE SECOND READING

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Romans 11.1–2a, 29–32

GOSPEL

Jesus went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.

A Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, ‘Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.’ But he did not answer her at all.

And his disciples came and urged him, saying, ‘Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.’

He answered, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’ But she came and knelt before him, saying, ‘Lord, help me.’

He answered, ‘It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.’ She said, ‘Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.’

Then Jesus answered her, ‘Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.’ And her daughter was healed instantly.

Matthew 15.21–28