

**PRAYER, READINGS, AND HYMNS FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2023**  
**THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God, our maker and redeemer, you have made us a new company of priests to bear witness to the Gospel. Enable us to be faithful to our calling to make known your promises to all the world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**THE FIRST LESSON - Jeremiah 20:7-13**

7 O LORD, you have deceived me, and I was deceived; you are stronger than I, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all the day; everyone mocks me. 8 For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. 9 If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. 10 For I hear many whispering. Terror is on every side! "Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" say all my close friends, watching for my fall. "Perhaps he will be deceived; then we can overcome him and take our revenge on him." 11 But the LORD is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. 12 O LORD of hosts, who tests the righteous, who sees the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause. 13 Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers. *ESV*

**THE RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 91:1-10**

- L 1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
- C 2 I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."**
- L 3 For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.
- C 4 He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.**
- L 5 You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day,
- C 6 nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.**
- L 7 A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.
- C 8 You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked.**
- L 9 Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place-- the Most High, who is my refuge--
- C 10 no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent. *ESV***
- L And all God's people said . . .
- C Amen**

## **THE SECOND LESSON - Romans 6:12-23**

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. 15 What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 16 Do 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? 17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. 19 I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. 20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 Y But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. *ESV*

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL - Matthew 10:5a, 21-33**

5a These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, 21 Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, 22 and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 23 When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. 24 "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25 It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household. 26 "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. 27 What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. 28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. 32 So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, 33 but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. *ESV*

## **HYMNS**

LBW 156 - *Look, the Sight Is Glorious*

LBW 290 - *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

LBW 370 - *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

LBW 233 - *Thy Strong Word*