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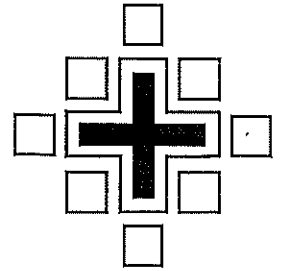
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Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 16, 2023



INTROIT *Ps. 103:15–19; antiphon: Ps. 103:8*

The LORD is merciful and | gracious,*

slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

As for man, his days | are like grass;*

he flourishes like a flower | of the field;

for the wind passes over it, and | it is gone,*

and its place knows | it no more.

But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those
who | fear him,*

and his righteousness to children's | children,

to those who keep his | covenant*

and remember to do his com- | mandments.

The LORD has established his throne in the | heavens,*

and his kingdom rules | over all.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

The LORD is merciful and | gracious,*

slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

GRADUAL *Rom. 11:33, 36*

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowl- | edge of God!*

How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable | his ways!

For from him and through him and to him are | all things.*

To him be glory forever. | Amen.

DAILY READINGS

July 16: Judg. 16:4–30; Gal. 4:12–31; 17: 1 Sam. 1:1–20; Gal. 5:1–26; 18: 1 Sam. 1:21–2:17; Gal. 6:1–18; 19: 1 Sam. 2:18–36; Acts 15:22–41; 20: 1 Sam. 3:1–21; Acts 16:1–22; 21: 1 Sam. 4:1–22; Acts 16:23–40; 22: 1 Sam. 5:1–6:3, 10–16; Acts 18:1–11, 23–28.

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Old Testament Reading:
Isaiah 55:10-13

- ¹⁰ "For as the rain and the snow come
down from heaven
and do not return there but water the
earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to
the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from
my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I
purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for
which I sent it.
¹² "For you shall go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap
their hands.
¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the
cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the
myrtle;
and it shall make a name for the LORD,
an everlasting sign that shall not be
cut off."

Epistle: Romans 8:12-17

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not
to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.
¹³For if you live according to the flesh you
will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death
the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For
all who are led by the Spirit of God are
sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the
spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but
you have received the Spirit of adoption
as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"
¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our
spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and
if children, then heirs—heirs of God and
fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer
with him in order that we may also be
glorified with him.

Holy Gospel:
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

¹That same day Jesus went out of the
house and sat beside the sea. ²And great
crowds gathered about him, so that he got
into a boat and sat down. And the whole
crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told
them many things in parables, saying: "A
sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed,
some seeds fell along the path, and the
birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other
seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did
not have much soil, and immediately they
sprang up, since they had no depth of soil,
⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched.
And since they had no root, they withered
away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns,
and the thorns grew up and choked them.
⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced
grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty,
some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him
hear. . . .

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower:
¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the king-
dom and does not understand it, the evil
one comes and snatches away what has
been sown in his heart. This is what was
sown along the path. ²⁰As for what was
sown on rocky ground, this is the one who
hears the word and immediately receives
it with joy, ²¹yet he has no root in himself,
but endures for a while, and when tribula-
tion or persecution arises on account of the
word, immediately he falls away. ²²As for
what was sown among thorns, this is the
one who hears the word, but the cares of
the world and the deceitfulness of riches
choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.
²³As for what was sown on good soil, this
is the one who hears the word and under-
stands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields,
in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty,
and in another thirty."