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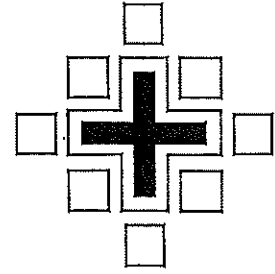
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Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 23, 2023



INTROIT *Ps. 86:11–15; antiphon: Ps. 86:6*

Give ear, O LORD, | to my prayer;*

listen to my | plea for grace.

Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk | in your truth;*

unite my heart to | fear your name.

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with | my whole heart,*

and I will glorify your name for- | ever.

For great is your steadfast | love toward me;*

you have delivered my soul from the depths | of Sheol.

O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men | seek my life,*

and they do not set you be- | fore them.

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and | gracious,*

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and | faithfulness.

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.

Give ear, O LORD, | to my prayer;*

listen to my | plea for grace.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; 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 23: 1 Sam. 6:19–7:17; Acts 19:1–22; **24:** 1 Sam. 8:1–22; Acts 21:15–36; **25:** 1 Sam. 9:1–27; Acts 21:37–22:16; **26:** 1 Sam. 10:1–27; Acts 22:17–29; **27:** 1 Sam. 12:1–25; Acts 22:30–23:11; **28:** 1 Sam. 13:1–18; Acts 23:12–35; **29:** 1 Sam. 14:47–15:9; Acts 24:1–23.

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Old Testament Reading:

Isaiah 44:6-8

- ⁶ Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.
- ⁷ Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.
- ⁸ Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."

Epistle: Romans 8:18-27

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit

intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Holy Gospel:

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

²⁴[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' ²⁸He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" . . .

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear."