

Sentence of Scripture

‘Is not my word like fire,’ says the Lord,
‘and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?’

Jeremiah 23.29

Prayer of the day

Everliving God,
increase in us your gift of faith,
that, forsaking sin and all that hinders us,
we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us,
looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Readings

Isaiah 5:1–7

¹ Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ²He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. ³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? ⁵And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

(NRSV)

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1–2, 8–19

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that led Joseph like a flock:

you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine out in glory;

² Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh:

stir up your power, and come to save us.

⁸ You brought a vine out of Egypt:

you drove out the nations, and planted it in.

⁹ You cleared the ground before it:

and it struck root and filled the land.

¹⁰ The hills were covered with its shadow:

and its boughs were like the boughs of the great cedars.

¹¹ It stretched out its branches to the sea:

and its tender shoots to the Great River.

¹² Why then have you broken down its walls:

so that every passer-by can pluck its fruit?

¹³ The wild boar out of the woods roots it up:

and the locusts from the wild places devour it.

¹⁴ Turn to us again, O Lord of hosts:

look down from heaven, and see.

¹⁵ Bestow your care upon this vine:

the stock which your own right hand has planted.

¹⁶ As for those that burn it with fire and cut it down:

let them perish at the rebuke of your countenance.

¹⁷ Let your power rest on the man at your right hand:

on that son of man whom you made so strong for yourself.

¹⁸ And so we shall not turn back from you:

give us life, and we will call upon your name.

¹⁹ Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:

show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Hebrews 11:29–12:2

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. ³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

(NRSV)

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Luke 12:49–59

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to . . .

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴⁹ “I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided:

father against son and son against father,
mother against daughter and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

⁵⁷ “And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? ⁵⁸ Thus, when you go with your accuser before a magistrate, on the way make an effort to settle the case, or you may be dragged before the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer throw you in prison. ⁵⁹ I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny.”

(NRSV)

This is the Gospel of our Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**