

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 16

Year C

The Collect of the Day

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A Reading from Isaiah 28:14-22

Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scoffers, who rule this people in Jerusalem! ¹⁵ Because you have said, "We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol we have an agreement; when the overwhelming scourge passes through it will not come to us; for we have made lies our refuge, and in falsehood we have taken shelter"; ¹⁶ therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am laying in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: 'He who believes will not be in haste.' ¹⁷ And I will make justice the line, and righteousness the plummet; and hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, and waters will overwhelm the shelter." ¹⁸ Then your covenant with death will be annulled, and your agreement with Sheol will not stand; when the overwhelming scourge passes through you will be beaten down by it. ¹⁹ As often as it passes through it will take you; for morning by morning it will pass through, by day and by night; and it will be sheer terror to understand the message. ²⁰ For the bed is too short to stretch oneself on it, and the covering too narrow to wrap oneself in it. ²¹ For the LORD will rise up as on Mount Perazim, he will be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon; to do his deed -- strange is his deed! and to work his work -- alien is his work! ²² Now therefore do not scoff, lest your bonds be made strong; for I have heard a decree of destruction from the Lord GOD of hosts upon the whole land.

Psalm 46

Deus noster refugium

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, *
a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, *
and though the mountains be toppled into the
depths of the sea;
- 3 Though its waters rage and foam, *
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
- 4 The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, *
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 6 God is in the midst of her;
she shall not be overthrown; *
God shall help her at the break of day.
- 7 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; *
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
- 8 The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 9 Come now and look upon the works of the Lord, *
what awesome things he has done on earth.
- 10 It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; *
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.
- 11 “Be still, then, and know that I am God; *
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth.”
- 12 The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

A Reading from Hebrews 12:18-29

For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest,¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers entreat that no further messages be spoken to them.²⁰ For they could not

endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to a judge who is God of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks more graciously than the blood of Abel. ²⁵ See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less shall we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. ²⁶ His voice then shook the earth; but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." ²⁷ This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken, as of what has been made, in order that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe; ²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke 13:22-30

He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. ²³ And someone said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them, ²⁴ "Strive to enter by the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. ²⁵ When once the householder has risen up and shut the door, you will begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us.' He will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' ²⁶ Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' ²⁷ But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from; depart from me, all you workers of iniquity!' ²⁸ There you will weep and gnash your teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you

yourselves thrust out. ²⁹ And men will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God. ³⁰ And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."