

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ELIJAH

Anthem of the Chancel

For your mercies are better than life.

By the mercies of your loving-kindness our souls are set free from ravenous death.

Your mercies, O Lord, are for ever.

By the mercies of your loving-kindness our souls are set free from ravenous death.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; from everlasting, and for ever and ever.

Amen.

By the mercies of your loving-kindness our souls are set free from ravenous death.

The Lections

Deuteronomy 10:12-end

"And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I command you this day for your good? Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it; yet the LORD set his heart in love upon your fathers and chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as at this day. Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. Love the sojourner therefore; for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the LORD your God; you shall serve him and cleave to him, and by his name you shall swear. He is your praise; he is your God, who has done for you these great and terrible things which your eyes have seen. Your fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons; and now the LORD your God has made you as the stars of heaven for multitude."

Isaiah 28:23-29:12

Give ear, and hear my voice;

hearken, and hear my speech.

Does he who plows for sowing plow continually?

does he continually open and harrow his ground?

When he has leveled its surface,

does he not scatter dill, sow cummin,

and put in wheat in rows
and barley in its proper place,
and spelt as the border?
For he is instructed aright;
his God teaches him.

Dill is not threshed with a threshing sledge,
nor is a cart wheel rolled over cummin;
but dill is beaten out with a stick,
and cummin with a rod.

Does one crush bread grain?
No, he does not thresh it for ever;
when he drives his cart wheel over it
with his horses, he does not crush it.
This also comes from the LORD of hosts;
he is wonderful in counsel,
and excellent in wisdom.

Ho Ariel, Ariel,
the city where David encamped!
Add year to year;
let the feasts run their round.

Yet I will distress Ariel,
and there shall be moaning and lamentation,
and she shall be to me like an Ariel.

And I will encamp against you round about,
and will besiege you with towers
and I will raise siegeworks against you.

Then deep from the earth you shall speak,
from low in the dust your words shall come;
your voice shall come from the ground like the voice of a ghost,
and your speech shall whisper out of the dust.

But the multitude of your foes shall be like small dust,
and the multitude of the ruthless like passing chaff.

And in an instant, suddenly,
you will be visited by the LORD of hosts
with thunder and with earthquake and great noise,
with whirlwind and tempest, and the flame of a devouring fire.
And the multitude of all the nations that fight against Ariel,

all that fight against her and her stronghold and distress her,
shall be like a dream, a vision of the night.
As when a hungry man dreams he is eating
and awakes with his hunger not satisfied,
or as when a thirsty man dreams he is drinking
and awakes faint, with his thirst not quenched,
so shall the multitude of all the nations be
that fight against Mount Zion.

Stupefy yourselves and be in a stupor,
blind yourselves and be blind!
Be drunk, but not with wine;
stagger, but not with strong drink!
For the LORD has poured out upon you
a spirit of deep sleep,
and has closed your eyes, the prophets,
and covered your heads, the seers.

And the vision of all this has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed.
When men give it to one who can read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed."
And when they give the book to one who cannot read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot read."

The Shuraya

He blessed them and they multiplied greatly;
And their cattle did not decrease.
They were diminished and brought low by great misfortune and misery;
He cast down evil upon princes
And caused them to wander in trackless wastes;
He strengthened the poor, and made their families like flocks,
That the righteous may see it and be glad.

The Apostle

1 Corinthians 14:26-end

What then, brethren? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn; and let one interpret. But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silence in church and speak to himself and to

God. Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. If a revelation is made to another sitting by, let the first be silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged; and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.

As in all the churches of the saints, the women should keep silence in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be subordinate, as even the law says. If there is anything they desire to know, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church. What! Did the word of God originate with you, or are you the only ones it has reached?

If any one thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that what I am writing to you is a command of the Lord. If any one does not recognize this, he is not recognized. So, my brethren, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues; but all things should be done decently and in order.

The Zumara

Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes hope; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge.

I will cry to God Most High, to God my Savior, Send from heaven and save me, and put my enemies to shame.

The Gospel 4

St. Matthew 18:1-18

. [T]he disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them, and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened round his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the man by whom the temptation comes! And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life maimed or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I tell you that in heaven their angels always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven. What do you think? If a man has

a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

The Anthem of the Gospel

I was led astray like a lost sheep; O seek for your servant.

From a total of one hundred sheep of your flock I alone became lost and strayed from your sheep-fold, and I angered you by my words and thoughts, and by my deeds. Gather in my lost condition, O you who in your mercies promised, I will forgive offenses unto seventy times seven times. I beseech you, have mercy upon me.

Turn us, O God our Savior.

From a total of one hundred sheep of your flock I alone became lost and strayed from your sheep-fold, and I angered you by my words and thoughts, and by my deeds. Gather in my lost condition, O you who in your mercies promised, I will forgive offenses unto seventy times seven times. I beseech you, have mercy upon me.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; from everlasting, and for ever and ever. Amen.

I am a sheep of your flock, but I am willingly led captive into sin through the laxity of my ways. O my Lord, the Friend of the penitent, seek out my lost condition. Restore me to your fold and have mercy upon me.

The Anthem of the Mysteries

Text: As these are the days of recompense, forgive us our debts and sins.

All the days of my life.

All the days of our lives we petition you, O Christ our Savior—you who are extolled by watchers and hallowed by cherubim and seraphim—to receive from you, O Friend of men, forgiveness of debts and sins.

For forgiveness is from you.

All the days of our lives we petition you, O Christ our Savior—you who are extolled by watchers and hallowed by cherubim and seraphim—to receive from you, O Friend of men, forgiveness of debts and sins.

The Anthem of the Bema

The absolving Mystery, the precious blood, is being apportioned. Come, let us all praise him, saying, You are holy, you are holy, you are holy, O Lord of all, for the Bread of Heaven is divided among the nations for the pardon of debts. Let us draw near and receive him. Let us call out praise to him with the watchers, and let us say, Hallelujah!

Verses:

Bless the Lord, you his angels, who are enabled to fulfill his commands.
Let us call out praise to him with the watchers, and let us say, Hallelujah!