

James, Apostle and Martyr

Year C

25th July 2022

Red

Prayer of the Day

O gracious God,
whose apostle James left his father and all that he had,
and without delay obeyed the call of your Son Jesus Christ:
pour out upon the leaders of your Church
the same spirit of self-denying service
by which alone they may have true authority
among your people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah,

Chapter 45 beginning at Verse 1

¹ The word that the prophet Jeremiah spoke to Baruch son of Neriah, when he wrote these words in a scroll at the dictation of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah: ² Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, to you, O Baruch: ³ You said, "Woe is me! The Lord has added sorrow to my pain; I am weary with my groaning, and I find no rest." ⁴ Thus you shall say to him, "Thus says the Lord: I am going to break down what I have built, and pluck up what I have planted - that is, the whole land. ⁵ And you, do you seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them; for I am going to bring disaster upon all flesh, says the Lord; but I will give you your life as a prize of war in every place to which you may go." [NRSV Jeremiah 45]

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

Psalm 126

- ¹ When the Lord turned again the fortunes of Zion:
then were we like those restored to life.
- ² Then was our mouth filled with laughter:
and our tongue with singing.

- 3 Then said they among the heathen:
 'The Lord has done great things for them.'
- 4 Truly the Lord has done great things for us:
 and therefore we rejoiced.
- 5 Turn again our fortunes, O Lord:
 as the streams return to the dry south.
- 6 Those who sow in tears:
 shall reap with songs of joy.
- 7 They that go out weeping, bearing the seed:
 shall come again in gladness,
 bringing their sheaves with them.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians,

Chapter 4 beginning at Verse 7

⁷But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. ⁸We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. ¹¹For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. ¹²So death is at work in us, but life in you.

¹³But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke"—we also believe, and so we speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

[NRSV 2 Corinthians 4.7–15]

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew,

Chapter 20 beginning at verse 20

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁰Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favor of him. ²¹And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." ²²But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." ²³He said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father."

²⁴When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. ²⁵But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ²⁶It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; ²⁸just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

[NRSV Matthew 20:20-28]

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

Sentence

While we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh.