



Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, heavenly Father, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your grace and truth, protect and comfort them in all temptation, defend them against all enemies of your Word, and bestow upon the Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Revelation 14:6-7

⁶I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

Psalm 46*

¹God is our ref- | uge 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;

³Though 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.

⁵There is a river whose streams make glad the ci- | ty 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.

⁷The nations make much ado, and the king- | doms 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.

⁹Come 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.

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. ²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it — ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

Gospel: John 8:31-36

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" ³⁴Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

Lessons for Next Week: Revelation 7:[2-8] 9-17; Psalm 149;
1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12