



Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, O Lord, because the more they are inclined to bear the fruit of your good work, the more generously they will receive your gracious healing. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 6:1-9

¹“Now this is the commandment — the statutes and the rules — that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, ²that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. ³Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. ⁴Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

Lessons for Next Week: 1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146:1-10;
Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 13:38-44

Psalm 119:1-8

¹Happy are they whose | way is blameless,*
who walk in the law | of the LORD!
²**Happy are they who observe | his decrees***
and seek him with | all their hearts!
³Who never do | any wrong,*
but always walk | in his ways.
⁴**You laid down | your commandments,***
that we should | fully keep them.
⁵Oh, that my ways were made | so direct*
that I might | keep your statutes!
⁶**Then I should not be | put to shame,***
when I regard all | your commandments.
⁷I will thank you with an | unfeigned heart,*
when I have learned your | righteous judgments.
⁸**I will | keep your statutes;***
do not utter- | ly forsake me.

Second Reading: Hebrews 9:11-22

¹¹But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹²he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. ¹⁵Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. ¹⁶For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. ¹⁷For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. ¹⁸Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. ¹⁹For when every commandment of the law had

been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, ²⁰saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you." ²¹And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. ²²Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

Gospel: Mark 12:28-37

²⁸One of the scribes came up and heard {Jesus and the Sadducees} disputing with one another, and seeing that {Jesus} answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" ²⁹Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ³⁰And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." ³²And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. ³³And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." ³⁴And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions. ³⁵And as Jesus taught in the temple, he said, "How can the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? ³⁶David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared, 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet."' ³⁷David himself calls him Lord. So how is he his son?" And the great throng heard him gladly.