

in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

Gospel

Matthew 23.1-12

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. "Everything they do is done for people to see: They make their phylacteries[a] wide and the tassels on their garments long; they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called 'Rabbi' by others. "But you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth 'father,' for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one Instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

The Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost

1st November 2026



Sentence

The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

Matthew 23.11-12

Prayer of the Day

Creator God,
you have filled the world with beauty:
open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works,
that, rejoicing in your whole creation,
we may learn to serve you with gladness,
for the sake of him through whom all things were made,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Joshua 3.7-17

A reading from the Book of Joshua

And the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: "When you reach the edge of the Jordan's waters, go and stand in the river." Joshua said to the Israelites, "Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God. This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites. See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the Lord the Lord of all the earth set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap." So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

Psalms 107.1-7, 33-37 APBA pg. 337

¹ O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:

for his loving mercy is for ever.

² Let the Lord's redeemed say so:

Whom he has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,

³ And gathered in from every land,
From the east and from the west:

From the north and from the south.

⁴ Some went astray in the wilderness and in the desert:

And found no path to an inhabited city;

⁵ They were hungry and thirsty,

and their heart fainted within them.

⁶ Then they cried to the Lord in their distress:

and he took them out of their trouble.

⁷ He led them by the right path:

till they came to an inhabited city.

³³ He turns rivers into desert:

and springs of water into thirsty ground.

³⁴ He makes of a fruitful land a salty waste:

because its inhabitants are evil.

³⁵ He turns the wilderness into a pool of water:

and parched ground into flowing springs.

³⁶ And there he settles the hungry:

and they build a city to live in.

³⁷ They sow fields and plant vineyards:

which give them fruitful harvest.

Second reading

1 Thess. 3.5-13

A reading from the First Letter to the Thessalonians

For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter had tempted you and that our labors might have been in vain. But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you. Therefore, brothers and sisters, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. How can we thank God enough for you