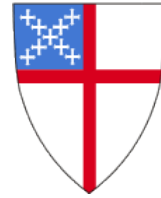


**Lessons for October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017  
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**



**First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

**Hear the Word of God as it is written in Ezekiel chapter 18 verses 1 to 4 and 25 to 32.**

The word of the LORD came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

**Psalm 25:1-8**

**Let us all stand and read Psalm 25 verses 1 to 8.**

1

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you;  
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

2

Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

3

Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

4

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.

5

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

6

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

7

Gracious and upright is the LORD; therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

8

He guides the humble in doing right and teaches his way to the lowly.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, World without end. Amen.**

## **Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13**

**Hear the Word of God as it is written in Philippians chapter 2 verses 1 to 13.**

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**