

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



"This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." These words were spoken in derision concerning Jesus. But when we sinners realize that Jesus welcomes us, we can only respond with wonder and declare: "Alleluia! Jesus welcomes sinners!"

Introit



The Lord is gracious and righteous;*
our God is full of compassion.

I love the Lord, for he heard my voice;*
he heard my cry for mercy.

Because he turned his ear to me,*

I will call on him as long as I live.

The cords of death entangled me, the
anguish of the grave came upon me.*

I was overcome by trouble and
sorrow.

Then I called on the name of the Lord:*
"O Lord, save me!"

The Lord is gracious and righteous;*
our God is full of compassion.

Collect of the Day

O God, without whose blessing we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and govern our hearts; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Gradual

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!*

How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

For from him and through him and to him are all things.*

To him be the glory forever! Amen (Rom. 11:33, 36)

For Daily Devotions

September 15: Ps. 99; Eccl. 1-3; 16: Ps. 100; Eccl. 4-6; 17: Ps. 101; Eccl. 7-9; 18: Ps. 102; Eccl. 10-12; 19: Ps. 103; Song of So. 1-4; 20: Ps. 104; Song of So. 5-8; 21: Ps. 105; Jer. 1-3.

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"This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." These words were spoken in derision concerning Jesus. But when we sinners realize that Jesus welcomes us, we can only respond with wonder and declare: "Hallelujah! Jesus welcomes sinners!"

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September 23: Ps. 107; Jer. 7-9; 24: Ps. 108; Jer. 10-12; 25: Ps. 109; Jer. 13-15; 26: Ps. 110; Jer. 16-18; 27: Ps. 111; Jer. 19-22; 28: Ps. 112; Jer. 23-25; 29: Ps. 113; Jer. 26-28.

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Exodus 32:7-14

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.’

“I have seen these people,” the LORD said to Moses, “and they are a stiff-necked people. Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation.”

But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. “O LORD,” he said, “why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.’” Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

1 Timothy 1:12-17

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was

poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Luke 15:1-10

Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering around to hear [Jesus]. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

Then Jesus told them this parable: “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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