

**Readings for 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – James, Apostle & Martyr.**

**A reading from Jeremiah chapter 45.**

<sup>1</sup>The word that the prophet Jeremiah spoke to Baruch son of Neriah, when he wrote these words in a scroll at the dictation of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah:

<sup>2</sup>Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, to you, O Baruch:

<sup>3</sup>You said, 'Woe is me! The LORD has added sorrow to my pain; I am weary with my groaning, and I find no rest.'

<sup>4</sup>Thus you shall say to him,

'Thus says the LORD: I am going to break down what I have built, and pluck up what I have planted—that is, the whole land.

<sup>5</sup>And you, do you seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them; for I am going to bring disaster upon all flesh, says the LORD;

but I will give you your life as a prize of war in every place to which you may go.'

Hear the word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**Psalm 126**

1. When the Lord turned against the fortunes of Zion:  
then were we like those restored to life.

2. **Then was our mouth filled with laughter:  
and our tongue with singing.**

3. Then said they among the heathen:  
'The Lord has done great things for them.'

4. **Truly the Lord has done great things for us:  
and therefore we rejoiced.**

5. Turn again our fortunes, O Lord:  
as the streams return to the dry south.

6. **Those who sow in tears:  
shall reap with songs of joy.**

7. They that go out weeping, bearing the seed:  
shall come again in gladness,  
bringing their sheaves with them.

**Glory to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:**

**as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen**

**A reading from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians chapter 4 beginning at verse 7. [4.7-15]**

7 But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.

<sup>8</sup>We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair;

<sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

<sup>10</sup>always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.

<sup>11</sup>For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh.

<sup>12</sup>So death is at work in us, but life in you.

13 But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—

'I believed, and so I spoke'— we also believe, and so we speak,

<sup>14</sup>because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence.

<sup>15</sup>Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

Hear the word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew chapter 20 beginning at verse 20. [20.20-28]**

***Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.***

20 Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee (James & John) came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favour of him.

<sup>21</sup>And he said to her, 'What do you want?'

She said to him, 'Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.'

<sup>22</sup>But Jesus answered, 'You do not know what you are asking.

Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?'

They said to him, 'We are able.'

<sup>23</sup>He said to them, 'You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.'

24 When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers.

<sup>25</sup>But Jesus called them to him and said,

'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them.

<sup>26</sup>It will not be so among you;

but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant,

<sup>27</sup>and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave;

<sup>28</sup>just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

***Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.***