

A reading from Exodus chapter 32 beginning at verse 1. [32.1-14]

1 When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, ‘Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’

²Aaron said to them, ‘Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.’

³So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron.

⁴He took the gold from them, formed it in a mould, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’

⁵When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it;

and Aaron made proclamation and said, ‘Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord.’

⁶They rose early the next day, and offered burnt-offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

⁷The LORD said to Moses, ‘Go down at once!

Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely;

⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them;

they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!”

⁹The LORD said to Moses, ‘I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are.

¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.’

¹¹But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said,

‘O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people,

whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?

¹²Why should the Egyptians say, “It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth”?

Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people.

¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them,

“I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it for ever.” ’

¹⁴And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 106 beginning at verse 1 [106.1-6,2024]

1. Praise the Lord; O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good: and his mercy endures for ever.

2. **Who can express the mighty acts of the Lord: or fully voice his praise?**

3. Blessed are those who act according to justice: who at all times do the right.

4. **Remember me, O Lord, when you visit your people with your favour:
and come to me also with your salvation,**

5. That I may see the prosperity of your chosen:

that I may rejoice with the rejoicing of your people, and exult with those who are your own.

6. **We have sinned like our ancestors: we have acted perversely and done wrong.**

20. At Horeb they made themselves a calf: and bowed down in worship to an image.

21. **And so they exchanged the glory of God: for the likeness of an ox that eats hay.**

22. They forgot God who was their saviour: that had done such great things in Egypt,

23. **Who had worked his wonders in the land of Ham: and his terrible deeds at the Red Sea.**

24. Therefore he thought to destroy them: had not Moses his servant stood before him in the breach,
to turn away his wrath from destroying them.

Glory to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit: as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians chapter 4 beginning at verse 1. [4.1-9]

¹Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for,
my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women,
for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel,
together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable,
whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing,
whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence
and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received
and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew chapter 22 beginning at verse 1. [22.1-14]

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying:

²'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king
who gave a wedding banquet for his son.

³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited
to the wedding banquet, but they would not come.

⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying,
"Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner,
my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered,
and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet."

⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm,
another to his business,

⁶while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them.

⁷The king was enraged.

He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.

⁸Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy.

⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet."

¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the
wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ 'But when the king came in to see the guests,
he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe,

¹²and he said to him,
"Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?"
And he was speechless.

¹³Then the king said to the attendants,
"Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness,
where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.