

Readings for 15th November 2020 – Pentecost +24

A reading from Judges chapter 4 beginning at verse 1. [4.1-10]

¹The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died.

²So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim.

³Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly for twenty years.

⁴At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel.

⁵She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgement.

⁶She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, 'The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you,

"Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun.

⁷I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand." '

⁸Barak said to her, 'If you will go with me, I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go.'

⁹And she said, 'I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.'

Then Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh.

¹⁰Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; and ten thousand warriors went up behind him; and Deborah went up with him.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 123

1. To you I lift up my eyes:
you who are enthroned in the heavens.
2. **As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master:
or as the eyes of a maid toward the hand of her mistress,**
3. So our eyes look to the Lord our God:
until he show us his mercy.
4. **Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have had our fill of derision.**
5. Our souls overflow with the mockery of those at ease:
and with the contempt of the proud.

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

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians chapter 5 beginning at verse 1. [5.1-11]

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you.

²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

³When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!

⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief;

⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.

⁶So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober;

⁷for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night.

⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew chapter 25 beginning at verse 14. [25.14-30]

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁴ 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them;

¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents.

¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.

¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.

²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying,

"Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents."

²¹His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying,

"Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents."

²³His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying,

"Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed;

²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours."

²⁶But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?"

²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers,

and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.

²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.

²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance;

but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.

³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.