

## Proper 23

### *Traditional*

Lord, we pray thee that thy grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### *Contemporary*

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*A Reading (Lesson) from the book of the prophet Jeremiah [29:1, 4-7]*

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. *The Word of the Lord*

*or*

*A Reading (Lesson) from the Second book of Kings [5:1-3, 7-15c]*

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me." But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying,

“Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean.” But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, “I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?” He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, “Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, ‘Wash, and be clean?’” So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean. Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, “Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel.”

*The Word of the Lord*

**Psalm 66:1-11**

- 1 Be joyful in God, all you lands; \*  
sing the glory of his Name;  
sing the glory of his praise.
- 2 Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! \*  
because of your great strength your enemies  
cringe before you.
- 3 All the earth bows down before you, \*  
sings to you, sings out your Name.”
- 4 Come now and see the works of God, \*  
how wonderful he is in his doing toward all people.
- 5 He turned the sea into dry land,  
so that they went through the water on foot, \*  
and there we rejoiced in him.
- 6 In his might he rules for ever;  
his eyes keep watch over the nations; \*  
let no rebel rise up against him.
- 7 Bless our God, you peoples; \*  
make the voice of his praise to be heard;
- 8 Who holds our souls in life, \*  
and will not allow our feet to slip.
- 9 For you, O God, have proved us; \*  
you have tried us just as silver is tried.
- 10 You brought us into the snare; \*  
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
- 11 You let enemies ride over our heads;

we went through fire and water; \*  
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

or

*Psalm 111*

- 1 Hallelujah!  
I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, \*  
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.
- 2 Great are the deeds of the LORD! \*  
they are studied by all who delight in them.
- 3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, \*  
and his righteousness endures for ever.
- 4 He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; \*  
the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.
- 5 He gives food to those who fear him; \*  
he is ever mindful of his covenant.
- 6 He has shown his people the power of his works \*  
in giving them the lands of the nations.
- 7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; \*  
all his commandments are sure.
- 8 They stand fast for ever and ever, \*  
because they are done in truth and equity.
- 9 He sent redemption to his people;  
he commanded his covenant for ever; \*  
holy and awesome is his Name.
- 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; \*  
those who act accordingly have a good understanding;  
his praise endures for ever.

*A Reading (Lesson) from Paul's **Second letter to Timothy [2:8-15]***

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. Do your

best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth. *The Word of the Lord*

*The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke [17:11-19]*

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well." *The Gospel of the Lord*