

Holy Bible Readings – Sunday, December 09, 2018

Birth of John the Baptist

Luke 1:67-80

67 Then Zechariah his father, filled with the Holy Spirit, prophesied, saying:
68 “Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has visited and brought redemption to his people.
69 He has raised up a horn for our salvation within the house of David his servant,
70 even as he promised through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old:
71 salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us,
72 to show mercy to our fathers and to be mindful of his holy covenant
73 and of the oath he swore to Abraham our father, and to grant us that,
74 rescued from the hand of enemies, without fear we might worship him
75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
76 And you, child, will be called prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to
prepare his ways,
77 to give his people knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,
78 because of the tender mercy of our God by which the daybreak from on high will visit us
79 to shine on those who sit in darkness and death’s shadow, to guide our feet into the path of
peace.”
80 The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the desert until the day of his
manifestation to Israel.

Exodus 2:1-10

1 Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman,
2 and the woman conceived and bore a son. Seeing what a fine child he was, she hid him for three
months.
3 But when she could no longer hide him, she took a papyrus basket, daubed it with bitumen and
pitch, and putting the child in it, placed it among the reeds on the bank of the Nile.
4 His sister stationed herself at a distance to find out what would happen to him.
5 Then Pharaoh’s daughter came down to bathe at the Nile, while her attendants walked along
the bank of the Nile. Noticing the basket among the reeds, she sent her handmaid to fetch it.

- 6 On opening it, she looked, and there was a baby boy crying! She was moved with pity for him and said, "It is one of the Hebrews' children."
- 7 Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and summon a Hebrew woman to nurse the child for you?"
- 8 Pharaoh's daughter answered her, "Go." So the young woman went and called the child's own mother.
- 9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse him for me, and I will pay your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him.
- 10 When the child grew, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses; for she said, "I drew him out of the water."

1 Samuel 1:19-28

- 19 Early the next morning they worshiped before the LORD, and then returned to their home in Ramah. When they returned Elkanah had intercourse with his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her.
- 20 She conceived and, at the end of her pregnancy, bore a son whom she named Samuel. "Because I asked the LORD for him."
- 21 The next time her husband Elkanah was going up with the rest of his household to offer the customary sacrifice to the LORD and to fulfill his vows,
- 22 Hannah did not go, explaining to her husband, "Once the child is weaned, I will take him to appear before the LORD and leave him there forever."
- 23 Her husband Elkanah answered her: "Do what you think best; wait until you have weaned him. Only may the LORD fulfill his word!" And so she remained at home and nursed her son until she had weaned him.
- 24 Once he was weaned, she brought him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and presented him at the house of the LORD in Shiloh.
- 25 After they had slaughtered the bull, they brought the child to Eli.
- 26 Then Hannah spoke up: "Excuse me, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here near you, praying to the LORD.
- 27 I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request.
- 28 Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD." Then they worshiped there before the LORD.

Psalms 127:1-5

- 1 A song of ascents. Of Solomon. Unless the LORD build the house, they labor in vain who build. Unless the LORD guard the city, in vain does the guard keep watch.
- 2 It is vain for you to rise early and put off your rest at night, to eat bread earned by hard toil—all this God gives to his beloved in sleep.
- 3 Certainly sons are a gift from the LORD, the fruit of the womb, a reward.
- 4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons born in one's youth.
- 5 Blessed is the man who has filled his quiver with them. He will never be shamed for he will destroy his foes at the gate.

Isaiah 62:1-12

- 1 For Zion's sake I will not be silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not keep still, until her vindication shines forth like the dawn and her salvation like a burning torch.
- 2 Nations shall behold your vindication, and all kings your glory; you shall be called by a new name bestowed by the mouth of the LORD.
- 3 You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the LORD, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
- 4 No more shall you be called "Forsaken," nor your land called "Desolate," But you shall be called "My Delight is in her," and your land "Espoused." For the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be espoused.
- 5 For as a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you.
- 6 Upon your walls, Jerusalem, I have stationed sentinels; by day and by night, they shall never be silent. You who are to remind the LORD, take no rest,
- 7 And give him no rest, until he re-establishes Jerusalem and makes it the praise of the earth.
- 8 The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: no more will I give your grain as food to your enemies; nor shall foreigners drink the wine, for which you toiled.
- 9 But those who harvest shall eat, and praise the LORD; those who gather shall drink in my holy courts.
- 10 Pass through, pass through the gates, prepare a way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, raise up a standard over the nations.
- 11 The LORD has proclaimed to the ends of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your savior comes! See, his reward is with him, his recompense before him."
- 12 They shall be called "The Holy People," "The Redeemed of the LORD." And you shall be called "Cared For," "A City Not Forsaken."

1 John 4:1-16

- 1 Beloved, do not trust every spirit but test the spirits to see whether they belong to God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
- 2 This is how you can know the Spirit of God: every spirit that acknowledges Jesus Christ come in the flesh belongs to God,
- 3 and every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus* does not belong to God. This is the spirit of the antichrist that, as you heard, is to come, but in fact is already in the world.
- 4 You belong to God, children, and you have conquered them, for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.
- 5 They belong to the world; accordingly, their teaching belongs to the world, and the world listens to them.
- 6 We belong to God, and anyone who knows God listens to us, while anyone who does not belong to God refuses to hear us. This is how we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of deceit.
- 7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.
- 8 Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.
- 9 In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him.
- 10 In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.
- 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another.
- 12 No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us.
- 13 This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us, that he has given us of his Spirit.
- 14 Moreover, we have seen and testify that the Father sent his Son as savior of the world.
- 15 Whoever acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God.
- 16 We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us.

Galatians 4:21-31

- 21 Tell me, you who want to be under the law, do you not listen to the law?
- 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the freeborn woman.
- 23 The son of the slave woman was born naturally, the son of the freeborn through a promise.

- 24 Now this is an allegory. These women represent two covenants. One was from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; this is Hagar.
- 25 Hagar represents Sinai,* a mountain in Arabia; it corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery along with her children.
- 26 But the Jerusalem above is freeborn, and she is our mother.
- 27 For it is written: "Rejoice, you barren one who bore no children; break forth and shout, you who were not in labor; for more numerous are the children of the deserted one than of her who has a husband."*
- 28 Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of the promise.
- 29 But just as then the child of the flesh persecuted the child of the spirit, it is the same now.
- 30 But what does the scripture say? "Drive out the slave woman and her son! For the son of the slave woman shall not share the inheritance with the son" of the freeborn.
- 31 Therefore, brothers, we are children not of the slave woman but of the freeborn woman.

Luke 1:57-66

- 57 When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child she gave birth to a son.
- 58 Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her, and they rejoiced with her.
- 59 When they came on the eighth day to circumcise the child, they were going to call him Zechariah after his father,
- 60 but his mother said in reply, "No. He will be called John.
- 61 But they answered her, "There is no one among your relatives who has this name."
- 62 So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called.
- 63 He asked for a tablet and wrote, "John is his name," and all were amazed.
- 64 Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God.
- 65 Then fear came upon all their neighbors, and all these matters were discussed throughout the hill country of Judea.
- 66 All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, "What, then, will this child be?" For surely the hand of the Lord was with him.