

FIRST READING: Amos 7:7-17 A plumbline; Amos and Amaziah (NCV)

⁷This is what he showed me: The Lord stood by a straight wall, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸The LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "See, I will put a plumb line among my people Israel to show how crooked they are. I will not look the other way any longer. ⁹"The places where Isaac's descendants worship will be destroyed, Israel's holy places will be turned into ruins, and I will attack King Jeroboam's family with the sword." ¹⁰Amaziah, a priest at Bethel, sent this message to Jeroboam king of Israel: "Amos is making evil plans against you with the people of Israel. He has been speaking so much that this land can't hold all his words. ¹¹This is what Amos has said: 'Jeroboam will die by the sword, and the people of Israel will be taken as captives out of their own country.'" ¹²Then Amaziah said to Amos, "Seer, go back right now to Judah. Do your prophesying and earn your living there, ¹³but don't prophesy anymore here at Bethel. This is the king's holy place, and it is the nation's temple." ¹⁴Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I do not make my living as a prophet, nor am I a member of a group of prophets. I make my living as a shepherd, and I take care of sycamore trees. ¹⁵But the LORD took me away from tending the flock and said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.' ¹⁶So listen to the LORD's word. You tell me, 'Don't prophesy against Israel, and stop prophesying against the descendants of Isaac.' ¹⁷"Because you have said this, the LORD says: 'Your wife will become a prostitute in the city, and your sons and daughters will be killed with swords. Other people will measure your land and divide it among themselves, and you will die in a foreign country. The people of Israel will definitely be taken from their own land as captives.'"

PSALM: Psalm 82 (NRSV)

¹God has taken His place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods He holds judgement: ²'How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? *Selah* ³Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. ⁴Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.' ⁵They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk around in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. ⁶I say, 'You are gods, children of the Most High, all of you; ⁷nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.' ⁸Rise up, O God, judge the earth; for all the nations belong to You!

SECOND READING: Colossians 1:1-14 Paul's thanksgiving and prayer (NET)

¹From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ²to the saints, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ, at Colossae. Grace and peace to you from God our Father!

³ We always give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ since we heard about your faith in Christ Jesus and the love that you have for all the saints. ⁵ Your faith and love have arisen from the hope laid up for you in heaven, which you have heard about in the message of truth, the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. Just as in the entire world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, so it has also been bearing fruit and growing among you from the first day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth. ⁷ You learned the gospel from Epaphras, our dear fellow slave—a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf— ⁸ who also told us of your love in the Spirit. ⁹ For this reason we also, from the day we heard about you, have not ceased praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you may live worthily of the Lord and please Him in all respects—bearing fruit in every good deed, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might for the display of all patience and steadfastness, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father who has qualified you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light. ¹³ He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of the Son He loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

GOSPEL: Luke 10:25-37 The parable of the good Samaritan (*HCSB*)

²⁵ Just then an expert in the law stood up to test Him, saying, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ “What is written in the law?” He asked him. “How do you read it?” ²⁷ He answered: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself. ²⁸ “You’ve answered correctly,” He told him. “Do this and you will live.” ²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbour?” ³⁰ Jesus took up the question and said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him up, and fled, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down that road. When he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² In the same way, a Levite, when he arrived at the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan on his journey came up to him, and when he saw the man, he had compassion. ³⁴ He went over to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on olive oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him. When I come back I’ll reimburse you for whatever extra you spend.’ ³⁶ “Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” ³⁷ “The one who showed mercy to him,” he said. Then Jesus told him, “Go and do the same.”