

FIRST READING: Hosea 11:1-11 God's love for His rebellious people (NRSV)

¹ When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son. ² The more I called them, the more they went from Me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and offering incense to idols. ³ Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in My arms; but they did not know that I healed them. ⁴ I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them. ⁵ They shall return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to Me. ⁶ The sword rages in their cities, it consumes their oracle-priests, and devours because of their schemes. ⁷ My people are bent on turning away from Me. To the Most High they call, but he does not raise them up at all. ⁸ How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within Me; my compassion grows warm and tender. ⁹ I will not execute My fierce anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and no mortal, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath. ¹⁰ They shall go after the LORD, who roars like a lion; when he roars, his children shall come trembling from the west. ¹¹ They shall come trembling like birds from Egypt, and like doves from the land of Assyria; and I will return them to their homes, says the LORD.

PSALM: Psalm 107:1-9, 43 (NRSV)

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures for ever. ² Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those He redeemed from trouble. ³ He gathered them in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. ⁴ But some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town. ⁵ Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. ⁶ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and He delivered them from their distress; ⁷ He led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town. ⁸ Let them thank the LORD for His steadfast love, for His wonderful works to humankind. ⁹ For He satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry He fills with good things. ⁴³ Let those who are wise give heed to these things, and consider the steadfast love of the LORD.

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-11 The old life and the new (NCV)

¹ Since you were raised from the dead with Christ, aim at what is in heaven, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. ² Think only about the things in heaven, not the things on earth. ³ Your old sinful self has died, and your new life is kept with Christ in God. ⁴ Christ is your life, and when He comes again, you will share in His glory. ⁵ So put all evil things out of your life: sexual sinning, doing evil, letting evil thoughts control you, wanting things that are evil, and greed. This is really serving a false god. ⁶ These things make God angry. ⁷ In your past, evil life you also did these things. ⁸ But now also put these things out of your life: anger, bad temper, doing or saying things to hurt others, and using evil words when you talk. ⁹ Do not lie to each other. You have left your old sinful life and the things you did before. ¹⁰ You have begun to live the new life, in which you are being made new and are becoming like the One who made you. This new life brings you the true knowledge of God. ¹¹ In the new life there is no difference between Greeks and Jews, those who are circumcised and those who are not circumcised, or people who are foreigners, or Scythians. There is no difference between slaves and free people. But Christ is in all believers, and Christ is all that is important.

GOSPEL: Luke 12:13-21 The parable of the rich fool (NCV)

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide with me the property our father left us." ¹⁴ But Jesus said to him, "Who said I should judge or decide between you?" ¹⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "Be careful and guard against all kinds of greed. Life is not measured by how much one owns." ¹⁶ Then Jesus told this story: "There was a rich man who had some land, which grew a good crop. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, 'What will I do? I have no place to keep all my crops.' ¹⁸ Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and other goods. ¹⁹ Then I can say to myself, "I have enough good things stored to last for many years. Rest, eat, drink, and enjoy life!"' ²⁰ "But God said to him, 'Foolish man! Tonight your life will be taken from you. So who will get those things you have prepared for yourself?' ²¹ "This is how it will be for those who store up things for themselves and are not rich toward God."