

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, 13 AUGUST 2023

FIRST READING: Genesis 37:1-4,12-28 Joseph sold into slavery in Egypt

37 Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan. ²This is the account of Jacob's family line. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them. ³Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate^[a] robe for him. ⁴When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

PSALM 85:8-13

⁸I will listen to what God the LORD says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants – but let them not turn to folly. ⁹Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. ¹⁰Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other. ¹¹Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven. ¹²The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest. ¹³Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.

SECOND READING: Romans 10:5-15 The word of the Lord is near you

⁵Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: 'The person who does these things will live by them.'^[a] ⁶But the righteousness that is by faith says: 'Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?"'^[b] (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷'or "Who will descend into the deep?"'^[c] (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? 'The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,'^[d] that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: ⁹if you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe

in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. ¹¹ As Scripture says, 'Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.'^[e] ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile – the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'^[f] ¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'^[g]

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33 Jesus walks on the water

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. ²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. 'It's a ghost,' they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.' ²⁸ 'Lord, if it's you,' Peter replied, 'tell me to come to you on the water.' ²⁹ 'Come,' he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came towards Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!' ³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. 'You of little faith,' he said, 'why did you doubt?' ³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'