

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, 6 AUGUST 2023

FIRST READING: Genesis 32:22-31 Jacob wrestles with God

²² That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. ²⁴ So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. ²⁶ Then the man said, 'Let me go, for it is daybreak.' But Jacob replied, 'I will not let you go unless you bless me.' ²⁷ The man asked him, 'What is your name?' 'Jacob,' he answered. ²⁸ Then the man said, 'Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel,^[a] because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.' ²⁹ Jacob said, 'Please tell me your name.' But he replied, 'Why do you ask my name?' Then he blessed him there. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel,^[b] saying, 'It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.' ³¹ The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel,^[c] and he was limping because of his hip.

PSALM 17:1-7, 15

¹ Hear me, LORD, my plea is just; listen to my cry. Hear my prayer – it does not rise from deceitful lips. ² Let my vindication come from you; may your eyes see what is right. ³ Though you probe my heart, though you examine me at night and test me, you will find that I have planned no evil; my mouth has not transgressed. ⁴ Though people tried to bribe me, I have kept myself from the ways of the violent through what your lips have commanded. ⁵ My steps have held to your paths; my feet have not stumbled. ⁶ I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer. ⁷ Show me the wonders of your great love, you who save by your right hand those who take refuge in you from their foes. ¹⁵ As for me, I shall be vindicated and shall see your face; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with seeing your likeness.

SECOND READING: Romans 9:1-5 Paul's sorrow for his own people

9 I speak the truth in Christ – I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit – ²I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, ⁴the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. ⁵Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, for ever praised!^[a] Amen.

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:13-21 Jesus feeds the five thousand

¹³When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed those who were ill. ¹⁵As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, ‘This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so that they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.’ ¹⁶Jesus replied, ‘They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.’ ¹⁷‘We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,’ they answered. ¹⁸‘Bring them here to me,’ he said. ¹⁹And he told the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. ²⁰They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ²¹The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.