

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 10, 2017



THE LESSON Exodus 12:1-14

¹The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ²“This month will be the first month; it will be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole Israelite community: On the tenth day of this month they must take a lamb for each household, a lamb per house. ⁴If a household is too small for a lamb, it should share one with a neighbor nearby. You should divide the lamb in proportion to the number of people who will be eating it. ⁵Your lamb should be a flawless year-old male. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You should keep close watch over it until the fourteenth day of this month. At twilight on that day, the whole assembled Israelite community should slaughter their lambs. ⁷They should take some of the blood and smear it on the two doorposts and on the beam over the door of the houses in which they are eating. ⁸That same night they should eat the meat roasted over the fire. They

should eat it along with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Don’t eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over fire with its head, legs, and internal organs. ¹⁰Don’t let any of it remain until morning, and burn any of it left over in the morning. ¹¹This is how you should eat it. You should be dressed, with your sandals on your feet and your walking stick in your hand. You should eat the meal in a hurry. It is the Passover of the LORD. ¹²I’ll pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I’ll strike down every oldest child in the land of Egypt, both humans and animals. I’ll impose judgments on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. ¹³The blood will be your sign on the houses where you live. Whenever I see the blood, I’ll pass over you. No plague will destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴“This day will be a day of remembering for you. You will observe it as a festival to the LORD. You will observe it in every generation as a regulation for all time.

THE RESPONSE Psalm 149

¹Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song; sing God’s praise in the assembly of the faithful!

²Let Israel celebrate its maker; let Zion’s children rejoice in their king!

³Let them praise God’s name with dance; let them sing God’s praise with the drum and lyre!

⁴Because the LORD is pleased with his people, God will beautify the poor with saving help.

⁵Let the faithful celebrate with glory; let them shout for joy on their beds.

⁶Let the high praises of God be in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands,

⁷to get revenge against the nations and punishment on the peoples,

⁸binding their rulers in chains and their officials in iron shackles,

⁹achieving the justice written against them. That will be an honor for all God’s faithful people.

Praise the LORD!

THE EPISTLE Romans 13:8-14

⁸Don’t be in debt to anyone, except for the obligation to love each other. Whoever loves another person has fulfilled the Law. ⁹The commandments, *Don’t commit adultery, don’t murder, don’t steal, don’t desire what others have*, and any other commandments, are all summed up in one word: *You must love your neighbor as yourself.* ¹⁰Love doesn’t do anything wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is what fulfills the Law.

¹¹As you do all this, you know

THE GOSPEL Matthew 18:15-20

¹⁵“If your brother or sister sins against you, go and correct them when you are alone together. If they listen to you, then you’ve won over your brother or sister. ¹⁶But if they won’t listen, take with you one or two others so that *every word may be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses.* ¹⁷But if they still won’t pay attention, report it to the church. If they won’t pay attention even to the

what time it is. The hour has already come for you to wake up from your sleep. Now our salvation is nearer than when we first had faith. ¹²The night is almost over, and the day is near. So let’s get rid of the actions that belong to the darkness and put on the weapons of light. ¹³Let’s behave appropriately as people who live in the day, not in partying and getting drunk, not in sleeping around and obscene behavior, not in fighting and obsession. ¹⁴Instead, dress yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ, and don’t plan to indulge your selfish desires.

church, treat them as you would a Gentile and tax collector. ¹⁸I assure you that whatever you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. And whatever you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven. ¹⁹Again I assure you that if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, then my Father who is in heaven will do it for you. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I’m there with them.”

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