

## TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



NOVEMBER 5, 2017

### *THE LESSON* Joshua 3:7-17

<sup>7</sup>The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to make you great in the opinion of all Israel. Then they will know that I will be with you in the same way that I was with Moses. <sup>8</sup>You are to command the priests who carry the covenant chest, 'As soon as you come to the bank of the Jordan, stand still in the Jordan.'"

<sup>9</sup>Joshua said to the Israelites, "Come close. Listen to the words of the LORD your God." <sup>10</sup>Then Joshua said, "This is how you will know that the living God is among you and will completely remove the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites before you. <sup>11</sup>Look! The covenant chest of the ruler of the entire earth is going to cross over in front of you in the Jordan. <sup>12</sup>Now pick twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one per tribe. <sup>13</sup>The soles of the priests' feet, who are carrying the chest of the LORD, ruler of the whole earth, will come to rest in the water of

the Jordan. At that moment, the water of the Jordan will be cut off. The water flowing downstream will stand still in a single heap."

<sup>14</sup>The people marched out from their tents to cross over the Jordan. The priests carrying the covenant chest were in front of the people. <sup>15</sup>When the priests who were carrying the chest came to the Jordan, their feet touched the edge of the water. The Jordan had overflowed its banks completely, the way it does during the entire harvest season. <sup>16</sup>But at that moment the water of the Jordan coming downstream stood still. It rose up as a single heap very far off, just below Adam, which is the city next to Zarethan. The water going down to the desert sea (that is, the Dead Sea) was cut off completely. The people crossed opposite Jericho. <sup>17</sup>So the priests carrying the Lord's covenant chest stood firmly on dry land in the middle of the Jordan. Meanwhile, all Israel crossed over on dry land, until the entire nation finished crossing over the Jordan.

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### *THE RESPONSE* Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37

<sup>1</sup>"Give thanks to the LORD because he is good, because his faithful love lasts forever!"

<sup>2</sup>**That's what those who are redeemed by the LORD say, the ones God redeemed from the power of their enemies,**

<sup>3</sup>the ones God gathered from various countries, from east and west, north and south.

**<sup>4</sup>Some of the redeemed had wandered into the desert, into the wasteland. They couldn't find their way to a city or town.**

<sup>5</sup>They were hungry and thirsty; their lives were slipping away.

**<sup>6</sup>So they cried out to the LORD in their distress, and God delivered them from their desperate circumstances.**

<sup>7</sup>God led them straight to human habitation. . . .

**<sup>33</sup>God turns rivers into desert, watery springs into thirsty ground,**

<sup>34</sup>fruitful land into unproductive dirt, when its inhabitants are wicked.

**<sup>35</sup>But God can also turn the desert into watery pools, thirsty ground into watery springs,**

<sup>36</sup>where he settles the hungry. They even build a city and live there!

**<sup>37</sup>They plant fields and vineyards and obtain a fruitful harvest.**

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**THE EPISTLE 1 Thessalonians  
2:9-13**

<sup>9</sup>You remember, brothers and sisters, our efforts and hard work. We preached God's good news to you, while we worked night and day so we wouldn't be a burden on any of you.

<sup>10</sup>You and God are witnesses of how holy, just, and blameless we were toward you believers. <sup>11</sup>Likewise, you know how we treated each of you like a father treats his own children.

<sup>12</sup>We appealed to you, encouraged you, and pleaded with you to live lives worthy of the God who is calling you into his own kingdom and glory.

<sup>13</sup>We also thank God constantly for this: when you accepted God's word that you heard from us, you welcomed it for what it truly is. Instead of accepting it as a human message, you accepted it as God's message, and it continues to work in you who are believers.

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**THE GOSPEL Matthew 23:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and his disciples, <sup>2</sup>"The legal experts and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat. <sup>3</sup>Therefore, you must take care to do everything they say. But don't do what they do.

<sup>4</sup>For they tie together heavy packs that are impossible to carry. They put them on the shoulders of others, but are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. <sup>5</sup>Everything they do, they do to be noticed

by others. They make extra-wide prayer bands for their arms and long tassels for their clothes.

<sup>6</sup>They love to sit in places of honor at banquets and in the synagogues. <sup>7</sup>They love to be greeted with honor in the markets and to be addressed as 'Rabbi.'

<sup>8</sup>"But you shouldn't be called *Rabbi*, because you have one teacher, and all of you are brothers and sisters. <sup>9</sup>Don't call anybody on earth your father, because you

have one Father, who is heavenly.

<sup>10</sup>Don't be called *teacher*, because Christ is your one teacher. <sup>11</sup>But the one who is greatest among you

will be your servant. <sup>12</sup>All who lift themselves up will be brought low. But all who make themselves low will be lifted up."