

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 29, 2017



THE LESSON Deuteronomy 34:1-12

¹Then Moses hiked up from the Moabite plains to Mount Nebo, the peak of the Pisgah slope, which faces Jericho. The LORD showed him the whole land: the Gilead region as far as Dan's territory; ²all the parts belonging to Naphtali along with the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, as well as the entirety of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea; ³also the arid southern plain, and the plain—including the Jericho Valley, Palm City—as far as Zoar.

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses: "This is the land that I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob when I promised: 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have shown it to you with your own eyes; however, you will not cross over into it."

⁵Then Moses, the LORD's servant, died—right there in the land of Moab, according to the LORD's command. ⁶The Lord buried him in a valley in Moabite country across

from Beth-peor. Even now, no one knows where Moses' grave is.

⁷Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eyesight wasn't impaired, and his vigor hadn't diminished a bit.

⁸Back down in the Moabite plains, the Israelites mourned Moses' death for thirty days. At that point, the time for weeping and for mourning Moses was over.

⁹Joshua, Nun's son, was filled with wisdom because Moses had placed his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to Joshua, and they did exactly what the LORD commanded Moses.

¹⁰No prophet like Moses has yet emerged in Israel; Moses knew the LORD face-to-face! ¹¹That's not even to mention all those signs and wonders that the LORD sent Moses to do in Egypt—to Pharaoh, to all his servants, and to his entire land—¹²as well as all the extraordinary power that Moses displayed before Israel's own eyes!

THE RESPONSE Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

¹Lord, you have been our help, generation after generation.

²Before the mountains were born, before you birthed the earth and the inhabited world—from forever in the past to forever in the future, you are God.

³You return people to dust, saying, "Go back, humans," ⁴because in your perspective a thousand years are like yesterday past, like a short period during the night watch.

⁵You sweep humans away like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning.

⁶True, in the morning it thrives, renewed, but come evening it withers, all dried up. . . .

¹³Come back to us, LORD! Please, quick! Have some compassion for your servants!

¹⁴Fill us full every morning with your faithful love so we can rejoice and celebrate our whole life long.

¹⁵Make us happy for the same amount of time that you afflicted us—for the same number of years that we saw only trouble.

¹⁶Let your acts be seen by your servants; let your glory be seen by their children.

¹⁷Let the kindness of the Lord our God be over us. Make the work of our hands last. Make the work of our hands last!

THE EPISTLE 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

¹As you yourselves know, brothers and sisters, our visit with you wasn't a waste of time. ²On the contrary, we had the courage through God to speak God's good news in spite of a lot of opposition, although we had already suffered and were publicly insulted in Philippi, as you know. ³Our appeal isn't based on false information, the wrong motives, or deception. ⁴Rather, we have been examined and approved by God to be trusted with the good news, and that's exactly how we speak. We

aren't trying to please people, but we are trying to please God, who continues to examine our hearts. ⁵As you know, we never used flattery, and God is our witness that we didn't have greedy motives. ⁶We didn't ask for special treatment from people—not from you or from others—⁷although we could have thrown our weight around as Christ's apostles. Instead, we were gentle with you like a nursing mother caring for her own children. ⁸We were glad to share not only God's good news with you but also our very lives because we cared for you so much.

THE GOSPEL Matthew 22:34-46

³⁴When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they met together. ³⁵One of them, a legal expert, tested him. ³⁶Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

³⁷He replied, "*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind.*" ³⁸This is the first and greatest

commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: *You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.* ⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands."

⁴¹Now as the Pharisees were gathering, Jesus asked them, ⁴²"What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?"

"David's son," they replied.

⁴³He said, "Then how is it that

David, inspired by the Holy Spirit, called him Lord when he said, ⁴⁴*The Lord said to my lord, 'Sit at my right side until I turn your enemies into your footstool'?* ⁴⁵If David calls him Lord, how

can he be David's son?" ⁴⁶Nobody was able to answer him. And from that day forward nobody dared to ask him anything.