

## TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 14, 2018



### *THE LESSON* Job 23:1-9, 16-17

Job answered:

<sup>1</sup>Today my complaint is again bitter;  
my strength is weighed down  
because of my groaning.

<sup>3</sup>Oh, that I could know how  
to find him—  
come to his dwelling place;

<sup>4</sup>I would lay out my case before  
him,

fill my mouth with arguments,  
<sup>5</sup>know the words with which he  
would answer,

understand what he would  
say to me.

<sup>6</sup>Would he contend with me  
through brute force?

No, he would surely listen to me.

<sup>7</sup>There those who do the right thing  
can argue with him;

I could escape from my judge  
forever.

<sup>8</sup>Look, I go east; he's not there,  
west, and don't discover him;

<sup>9</sup>north in his activity,  
and I don't grasp him;  
he turns south, and I don't see. . . .

<sup>16</sup>God has weakened my mind;  
the Almighty has frightened me.

<sup>17</sup>Still I'm not annihilated by  
darkness;  
he has hidden deep darkness  
from me.

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### *THE RESPONSE* Psalm 22:1-15

My God! My God, why have you left me all alone? Why are you so far from saving me—so far from my anguished groans?

<sup>1</sup>My God, I cry out during the day, but you don't answer; even at nighttime I don't stop.

<sup>2</sup>You are the holy one, enthroned. You are Israel's praise.

<sup>3</sup>Our ancestors trusted you—they trusted you and you rescued them;

<sup>4</sup>they cried out to you and they were saved; they trusted you and they weren't ashamed.

<sup>6</sup>But I'm just a worm, less than human; insulted by one person, despised by another.

<sup>7</sup>All who see me make fun of me—they gape, shaking their heads: "He committed himself to the LORD, so let God rescue him; let God deliver him because God likes him so much."

<sup>9</sup>But you are the one who pulled me from the womb, placing me safely at my mother's breasts.

<sup>10</sup>I was thrown on you from birth; you've been my God since I was in my mother's womb.

<sup>11</sup>Please don't be far from me, because trouble is near and there's no one to help.

<sup>12</sup>Many bulls surround me; mighty bulls from Bashan encircle me.

<sup>13</sup>They open their mouths at me like a lion ripping and roaring!

<sup>14</sup>I'm poured out like water. All my bones have fallen apart. My heart is like wax; it melts inside me.

<sup>15</sup>My strength is dried up like a piece of broken pottery. My tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you've set me down in the dirt of death.

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#### THE EPISTLE Hebrews 4:12-16

<sup>12</sup>God's word is living, active, and sharper than any two-edged sword. It penetrates to the point that it separates the soul from the spirit and the joints from the marrow. It's able to judge the heart's thoughts and intentions. <sup>13</sup>No creature is hidden from it, but rather everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of the one to whom we have to give an answer.

<sup>14</sup>Also, let's hold on to the confession since we have a great high priest who passed through the heavens, who is Jesus, God's Son; <sup>15</sup>because we don't have a high priest who can't sympathize with our weaknesses but instead one who was tempted in every way that we are, except without sin.

<sup>16</sup>Finally, let's draw near to the throne of favor with confidence so that we can receive mercy and find grace when we need help.

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#### THE GOSPEL Mark 10:17-31

<sup>17</sup>As Jesus continued down the road, a man ran up, knelt before him, and asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to obtain eternal life?"

<sup>18</sup>Jesus replied, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except the one God. <sup>19</sup>You know the commandments: *Don't commit murder. Don't commit adultery. Don't steal. Don't give false testimony. Don't cheat. Honor your father and mother.*"

<sup>20</sup>"Teacher," he responded, "I've kept all of these things since I was a boy."

<sup>21</sup>Jesus looked at him carefully

and loved him. He said, "You are lacking one thing. Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor. Then you will have treasure in heaven. And come, follow me." <sup>22</sup>But the man was dismayed at this statement and went away saddened, because he had many possessions.

<sup>23</sup>Looking around, Jesus said to his disciples, "It will be very hard for the wealthy to enter God's kingdom!"

<sup>24</sup>His words startled the disciples, so Jesus told them again, "Children, it's difficult to enter God's kingdom!

<sup>25</sup>It's easier for a camel to squeeze through the eye of a needle than

for a rich person to enter God's kingdom."

<sup>26</sup>They were shocked even more and said to each other, "Then who can be saved?"

<sup>27</sup>Jesus looked at them carefully and said, "It's impossible with human beings, but not with God. All things are possible for God."

<sup>28</sup>Peter said to him, "Look, we've left everything and followed you."

<sup>29</sup>Jesus said, "I assure you that

anyone who has left house, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children, or farms because of me and because of the good news <sup>30</sup>will receive one hundred times as much now in this life—houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and farms (with harassment)—and in the coming age, eternal life. <sup>31</sup>But many who are first will be last. And many who are last will be first."