

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 25, 2019



THE LESSON Jeremiah 1:4-10

⁴The LORD's word came to me:

⁵"Before I created you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I set you apart; I made you a prophet to the nations."

⁶"Ah, LORD God," I said, "I don't know how to speak because I'm only a child."

⁷The LORD responded, "Don't say, 'I'm only a child.' Where I send you, you must go; what I tell you, you must say."

⁸"Don't be afraid of them, because I'm with you to rescue you," declares the LORD.

⁹Then the LORD stretched out his hand, touched my mouth, and said to me, "I'm putting my words in your mouth."

¹⁰"This very day I appoint you over nations and empires, to dig up and pull down, to destroy and demolish, to build and plant."

THE RESPONSE Psalm 71:1-6

I've taken refuge in you, LORD. Don't let me ever be put to shame!

¹Deliver me and rescue me by your righteousness! Bend your ear toward me and save me!

²Be my rock of refuge where I can always escape. You commanded that my life be saved because you are my rock and my fortress.

³My God, rescue me from the power of the wicked; rescue me from the grip of the wrongdoer and the oppressor

⁴because you are my hope, Lord. You, LORD, are the one I've trusted since childhood.

⁵I've depended on you from birth—you cut the cord when I came from my mother's womb. My praise is always about you.

THE EPISTLE

Hebrews 12:18-29

¹⁸You haven't drawn near to something that can be touched: a burning fire, darkness, shadow, a whirlwind, ¹⁹a blast of a trumpet, and a sound of words that made the ones who

heard it beg that there wouldn't be one more word. ²⁰They couldn't stand the command, *If even a wild animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned.* ²¹The sight was so frightening that Moses said, "I'm terrified and shaking!"

²²But you have drawn near to Mount Zion, the city of the living God, heavenly Jerusalem, to countless angels in a festival gathering, ²³to the assembly of God's firstborn children who are registered in heaven, to God the judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous who have been made perfect, ²⁴to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks better than Abel's blood.

²⁵See to it that you don't resist the one who is speaking. If the people didn't escape when they refused to listen to the one who warned them on earth, how will we escape if we

reject the one who is warning from heaven? ²⁶His voice shook the earth then, but now he has made a promise: *Still once more I will shake not only the earth but heaven also.* ²⁷The words "still once more" reveal the removal of what is shaken—the things that are part of this creation—so that what isn't shaken will remain. ²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that can't be shaken, let's continue to express our gratitude. With this gratitude, let's serve in a way that is pleasing to God with respect and awe, ²⁹because our God really is a consuming fire.

THE GOSPEL Luke 13:10-17

¹⁰Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹A woman was there who had been disabled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and couldn't stand up straight. ¹²When he saw her, Jesus called her to him and said, "Woman, you are set free from your sickness." ¹³He placed his hands on her and she straightened up at once and praised God.

¹⁴The synagogue leader, incensed that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, responded, "There are six

days during which work is permitted. Come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath day."

¹⁵The Lord replied, "Hypocrites! Don't each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from its stall and lead it out to get a drink? ¹⁶Then isn't it necessary that this woman, a daughter of Abraham, bound by Satan for eighteen long years, be set free from her bondage on the Sabbath day?" ¹⁷When he said these things, all his opponents were put to shame, but all those in the crowd rejoiced at all the extraordinary things he was doing.

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