

# Readings June 21, 2026

## Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

### First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13

(I must speak God's Word, though I am mocked for it)

- <sup>7</sup> O LORD, you have enticed me, and I was enticed;  
you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed.  
I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me.
- <sup>8</sup> For whenever I speak, I must cry out;  
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"  
For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long.
- <sup>9</sup> If I say, "I will not mention him or speak any more in his name,"  
then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones;  
I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.
- <sup>10</sup> For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around!  
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"  
All my close friends are watching for me to stumble.  
"Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him  
and take our revenge on him."
- <sup>11</sup> But the LORD is with me like a terrifying warrior;  
therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail.  
They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed.  
Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten.
- <sup>12</sup> O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous;  
you see the heart and the mind;  
let me see your retribution upon them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.
- <sup>13</sup> Sing to the LORD;  
praise the LORD!  
For he has delivered the life of the needy  
from the hands of evildoers.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 91:1-16

(God will deliver from snares, pestilence, and evil)

- <sup>1</sup> You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,  
<sup>2</sup> **will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."**
- <sup>3</sup> For he will deliver you from the snare of the hunter and from the deadly pestilence;  
<sup>4</sup> **he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and defense.**
- <sup>5</sup> You will not fear the terror of the night or the arrow that flies by day  
<sup>6</sup> **or the pestilence that stalks in darkness or the destruction that wastes at noonday.**
- <sup>7</sup> A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it will not come near you.
- <sup>8</sup> **You will only look with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.**

<sup>9</sup> Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place,  
<sup>10</sup> **no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.**

<sup>11</sup> For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

<sup>12</sup> **On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.**

<sup>13</sup> You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

<sup>14</sup> **Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.**

<sup>15</sup> When they call to me, I will answer them;

I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them.

<sup>16</sup> **With long life I will satisfy them and show them my salvation.**

### **Second Reading: Romans 6:12-23**

(Having been delivered from slavery to sin, now be slaves to righteousness.)

<sup>12</sup> Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires.

<sup>13</sup> No longer present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. <sup>14</sup> For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

<sup>15</sup> What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!

<sup>16</sup> Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted <sup>18</sup> and that you, having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness. <sup>19</sup> I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to even more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification.

<sup>20</sup> When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup> So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup> But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**