

## **Sunday July 8 The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost Track 1**

**The Collect:** O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **The Old Testament: 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 read from the Revised Standard Version Bible**

When the Philistines captured the ark of God, they carried it from Ebene'zer to Ashdod; then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it into the house of Dagon and set it up beside Dagon. And when the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the Lord. So they took Dagon and put him back in his place. But when they rose early on the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the Lord, and the head of Dagon and both his hands were lying cut off upon the threshold; only the trunk of Dagon was left to him. This is why the priests of Dagon and all who enter the house of Dagon do not tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod to this day.

But after they had brought it around, the hand of the Lord was against the city, causing a very great panic, and he afflicted the men of the city, both young and old, so that tumors broke out upon them. So they sent the ark of God to Ekron. But when the ark of God came to Ekron, the people of Ekron cried out, "They have brought around to us the ark of the God of Israel to slay us and our people."

### **The Word of the Lord**

#### **Psalm 48 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer**

1 Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised; \* in the city of our God is his holy hill.

2 Beautiful and lofty, the joy of all the earth, is the hill of Zion, \* the very center of the world and the city of the great King.

3 God is in her citadels; \* he is known to be her sure refuge.

4 Behold, the kings of the earth assembled \* and marched forward together.

5 They looked and were astounded; \* they retreated and fled in terror.

6 Trembling seized them there; \* they writhed like a woman in childbirth, like ships of the sea when the east wind shatters them.

7 As we have heard, so have we seen, in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God; \* God has established her for ever.

8 We have waited in silence on your loving-kindness, O God, \* in the midst of your temple.

9 Your praise, like your Name, O God, reaches to the world's end; \* your right hand is full of justice.

10 Let Mount Zion be glad and the cities of Judah rejoice, \* because of your judgments.

11 Make the circuit of Zion; walk round about her; \* count the number of her towers.

12 Consider well her bulwarks; examine her strongholds; \* that you may tell those who come after.

13 This God is our God for ever and ever; \* he shall be our guide for evermore.

### **The Epistle: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 read from the God's Word Bible**

I know a follower of Christ who was snatched away to the third heaven fourteen years ago. I don't know whether this happened to him physically or spiritually. Only God knows. I know that this person was snatched away to paradise where he heard things that can't be expressed in words, things that humans cannot put into words. I don't know whether this happened to him physically or spiritually. Only God knows. I'll brag about this person, but I won't brag about myself unless it's about my weaknesses.

If I ever wanted to brag, I wouldn't be a fool. Instead, I would be telling the truth. But I'm going to spare you so that no one may think more of me than what he sees or hears about me, especially because of the excessive number of revelations that I've had.

Therefore, to keep me from becoming conceited, I am forced to deal with a recurring problem. That problem, Satan's messenger, torments me to keep me from being conceited. I begged the Lord three times to take it away from me. But he told me: "My kindness is all you need. My power is strongest when you are weak." So I will brag even more about my weaknesses in

order that Christ's power will live in me. Therefore, I accept weakness, mistreatment, hardship, persecution, and difficulties suffered for Christ. It's clear that when I'm weak, I'm strong.

## **The Word of the Lord**

### **The Gospel: Mark 6:1-13 read from the Holman Christian Standard Bible**

He went away from there and came to His hometown, and His disciples followed Him. When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard Him were astonished. "Where did this man get these things?" they said. "What is this wisdom given to Him, and how are these miracles performed by His hands? Isn't this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And aren't His sisters here with us?" So they were offended by Him.

Then Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown, among his relatives, and in his household." So He was not able to do any miracles there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. And He was amazed at their unbelief.

Now He was going around the villages in a circuit, teaching. He summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs and gave them authority over unclean spirits. He instructed them to take nothing for the road except a walking stick: no bread, no traveling bag, no money in their belts. They were to wear sandals, but not put on an extra shirt. Then He said to them, "Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that place. If any place does not welcome you and people refuse to listen to you, when you leave there, shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them."

So they went out and preached that people should repent. And they were driving out many demons, anointing many sick people with olive oil, and healing them.

## **The Gospel of the Lord**

**Closing Prayer: On July 12 we celebrate the life of Nathan Söderblom, Archbishop of**

## **Uppsala & architect of the ecumenical movement of the twentieth century. Read from *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*.**

Nathan Söderblom is regarded as one of the founders of the modern ecumenical movement. Born at Trönö in Sweden on January 15th, 1866, Söderblom attended the University of Uppsala and was ordained a priest in the Lutheran Church of Sweden in 1893. From 1894-1901, he served as Pastor of the Swedish Lutheran community in Paris, during which time he took his doctorate in theology at the Sorbonne. He returned to Uppsala in 1902 to teach and lead the School of Theology at the university. He was a highly respected scholar and teacher, a prolific writer, and an early proponent of the study of comparative religions.

To the surprise and dismay of many, he was appointed Archbishop of Uppsala in 1914. It had been centuries since the senior bishops of the Swedish Church had been passed over for the appointment, and it was particularly notable since Söderblom was not a bishop.

Söderblom took a great interest in the early liturgical renewal movement among Roman Catholics, Anglicans, and Lutherans. This coincided with his deep commitment to the unity of the churches of Christ and his passion for ecumenical advancement. In 1925 he invited Episcopalian/Anglican, Reformed, Lutheran, and Orthodox leaders to Stockholm, and together they formed the Universal Christian Council on Life and Work. Söderblom (Sue-dare-bloom) worked closely with Charles Henry Brent at the First Conference on Faith and Order that Brent organized in 1927 in Lausanne, Switzerland. Because of his effort and his tireless advocacy of Christian unity, Söderblom is numbered among the ecumenists whose efforts led eventually to the formation of the World Council of Churches in 1948. It was Soderblom's advocacy for church unity as a means towards world peace that earned him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1930.

Archbishop Söderblom saw a profound connection between liturgical worship, personal prayer, and social justice. A rich cohesion of these elements was, in his mind, the foundation of a Christian commitment well lived.

Söderblom died in Uppsala, Sweden, in 1931.

**Let us pray:** Almighty God, we bless your Name for the life and work of Nathan Söderblom, Archbishop of Uppsala, who helped to inspire the modern liturgical revival and worked tirelessly for cooperation among Christians. Inspire us by his example, that we may ever strive for the renewal of your Church in life and worship, for the glory of your Name; who with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**