

## Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost Sunday, August 12, 2018 Track 1

**The Collect:** Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **Old Testament: 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 read from The God's Word Bible**

The king ordered Joab, Abishai, and Ittai, "Treat the young man Absalom gently for my sake." All the troops heard him give all the commanders this order regarding Absalom.

So the troops went out to the country to fight Israel in the forest of Ephraim. There David's men defeated Israel's army, and the massacre was sizable that day—20,000 men. The fighting spread over the whole country. That day the woods devoured more people than the battle.

Absalom happened to come face to face with some of David's men. He was riding on a mule, and the mule went under the tangled branches of a large tree. Absalom's head became caught in the tree. So he was left hanging in midair when the mule that was under him ran away.

Then ten of Joab's armorbearers surrounded Absalom, attacked him, and killed him.

Then the Sudanese messenger came. "Good news for Your Majesty!" he said. "Today the Lord has freed you from all who turned against you."

"Is the young man Absalom alright?" the king asked.

The Sudanese messenger answered, "May your enemies and all who turned against you be like that young man!"

The king was shaken by the news. He went to the room above the gate and cried. "My son Absalom!" he said as he went. "My son, my son Absalom! I wish I had died in your place! Absalom, my son, my son!"

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

#### **Psalm 130 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer**

1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice; \* let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

2 If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, \* O Lord, who could stand?

3 For there is forgiveness with you; \* therefore you shall be feared.

4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; \* in his word is my hope.

5 My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning, \* more than watchmen for the morning.

6 O Israel, wait for the Lord, \* for with the Lord there is mercy;

7 With him there is plenteous redemption, \* and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

#### **Epistle: Ephesians 4:25-5:2 read from the Holman Christian Standard Bible**

Since you put away lying, Speak the truth, each one to his neighbor, because we are members of one another. Be angry and do not sin. Don't let the sun go down on your anger, and don't give the Devil an opportunity. The thief must no longer steal. Instead, he must do honest work with his own hands, so that he has something to share with anyone in need. No foul language is to come from your mouth, but only what is good for building up someone in need, so that it gives grace to those who hear. And don't grieve God's Holy Spirit. You were sealed by Him for the day of redemption. All bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander must be removed from you, along with all malice. And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.

Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children. And walk in love, as the Messiah also loved us and gave Himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God.

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

## **Gospel: John 6:35, 41-51 read from the International Children's Bible**

Then Jesus said, "I am the bread that gives life. He who comes to me will never be hungry. He who believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you before, you have seen me, and still you don't believe.

The Jews began to complain about Jesus. They complained because he said, "I am the bread that comes down from heaven." The Jews said, "This is Jesus. We know his father and mother. He is only Joseph's son. How can he say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

But Jesus answered, "Stop complaining to each other. The Father is the One who sent me. No one can come to me unless the Father draws him to me. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'God will teach all the people.' Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. No one has seen the Father except the One who is from God. Only he has seen the Father. I tell you the truth. He who believes has eternal life. I am the bread that gives life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert. But still they died. Here is the bread that comes down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will never die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh. I will give my flesh so that the people in the world may have life."

## **The Gospel of the Lord**

### **Closing Prayer: On August 13 we remember the life of Jeremy Taylor, Bishop and Theologian**

Taylor was born at Cambridge in 1613 and ordained in 1633. In the years between 1633 and the ascendancy of the Puritans in 1645, he was a Fellow of two Cambridge colleges, and chaplain to Archbishop Laud and to King Charles. Under Puritan rule, he was imprisoned three times, and forced into retirement as a family chaplain in Wales where he became the private chaplain of the Earl of Carbery

After the Restoration, in 1661, he became Bishop of Down and Connor in Ireland. Among his many books on theological, moral, and devotional subjects, the best known are *The Rule and*

*Exercise of Holy Living* (1650) and *The Rule and Exercises of Holy Dying* (1651), usually cited simply as Holy Living and Holy Dying.

Many readers, including Charles Wesley a century later, have reported finding these books of great spiritual benefit. Another work of his, *Liberty of Prophesying*, argues for freedom of conscience and freedom of speech in a religious context. Being stationed in an area that was largely Roman Catholic, he was, perhaps inevitably, drawn into controversy.

One of the prayers for the Visitation of the Sick as found in the Book of Common Prayer (on page 316 in the 1928 American edition) was written by Taylor. It reads as follows:

O God, whose days are without end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered; Make us, we beseech thee, deeply sensible of the shortness and uncertainty of human life; and let thy Holy Spirit lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days: that, when we shall have served thee in our generation, we may be gathered unto our fathers, having the testimony of a good conscience; in the communion of the Catholic Church; in the confidence of a certain faith; in the comfort of a reasonable, religious, and holy hope; in favour with thee our God, and in perfect charity with the world. All which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

He is sometimes known as the "Shakespeare of Divines" for his poetic style of expression, and he is frequently cited as one of the greatest prose writers in the English language.

**Let us pray:** O God, whose days are without end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered: Make us, like your servant Jeremy Taylor, deeply aware of the shortness and uncertainty of human life; and let your Holy Spirit lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**