

had fish for the asking, cucumbers and watermelons, leeks and onions and garlic. Now our appetite is gone; wherever we look there is nothing except this manna." Moses heard all the people lamenting in their families at the openings of their tents. The LORD became very angry, and Moses was troubled, and he said to the LORD, "Why have you brought trouble on your servant? How have I displeased the LORD that I am burdened with all this people? Am I their mother? Have I brought them into the world, and am I called on to carry them in my arms, like a nurse with a baby, to the land promised by you on oath to their fathers? Where am I to find meat to give them all? They pester me with their wailing and their 'Give us meat to eat.' This whole people is a burden too heavy for me; I cannot carry it alone. If that is your purpose for me, then kill me outright: if I have found favour with you, spare me this trouble afflicting me." The LORD answered Moses, "Assemble for me seventy of Israel's elders, men known to you as elders and officers in the community; bring them to the Tent of Meeting, and there let them take their place with you." Moses went out and told the people what the LORD had said. He assembled seventy men from the elders of the people and stationed them round the Tent. Then the LORD descended in the cloud and spoke to him. He withdrew part of the spirit which had been conferred on Moses and bestowed it on the seventy elders; as the spirit lighted on them, they were seized by a prophetic ecstasy, for the first and only time. Two men, one named Eldad and the other Medad, who had been enrolled with the seventy, were left behind in the camp. Though they had not gone out to the Tent, the spirit lighted on them, and they were seized by a prophetic ecstasy there in the camp! A young man ran and told Moses that Eldad and Medad were in ecstasy in the camp, whereupon Joshua Son of Nun, who had served since boyhood with Moses, broke in, "Moses, my lord, stop them!" But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous on my account? I wish that all God's people were prophets and that the LORD would bestow his Spirit on them all!"

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

19:7-11, 14

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.

Response: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.

The testimony of the / Lord is / sure:
and gives wisdom / to the / simple.

The statutes of the Lord are right and re/joyce the / heart:
the commandment of the Lord is pure * and gives light / to the / eyes.

Response

The fear of the Lord is clean and en/dures for / ever:
the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous / alto/gether.
More to be desired are they than gold * more than / much fine / gold:
sweeter also than honey, dripping / from the / honeycomb. **Response**

By them also is your / servant / taught:
and in keeping them there is / great re/ward.
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart *

be acceptable / in your / sight:
O Lord, my strength and / my re/deemer. **Response**

The Second Reading

James 5:13-20 (CEV)

A reading from the letter of James.

If you are in trouble, you should pray. And if you are feeling good, you should sing praises. If you are sick, ask the elders to come and pray for you; ask them to put olive oil on you in the name of the Lord. If you have faith when you pray for sick people, they will be saved. The Lord will raise them up, and if they have sinned, he will forgive them. If you have sinned, you should confess your sins to one another. Then you can pray for one another and be healed. The heartfelt prayer of an innocent person is very powerful. Elijah was just as human as we are, and for three and a half years his prayers kept the rain from falling. But when he did pray for rain, it fell from the skies and made the crops grow. My friends, if any of you have wandered away from the truth, you should try to lead them back. If you turn sinners from the wrong way, you will save them from death, and cover many a sin.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! **Alleluia!** The word of the Lord en/dures for / ever.

The word of the Lord is the good news a/nounced to / you. **Alleluia!**

The Gospel Reading

Mark 9:38-50 (TNIV)

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St Mark.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

After Jesus had finished teaching the disciples, John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us." "Do not stop him," Jesus said. "No-one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, for whoever is not against us is for us. Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly be rewarded. If anyone causes one of these little ones — those who believe in me — to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung round their neck and they were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where 'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.' Everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with each other."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**