

Scripture for the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 9, 2020

Introduction to the Epistle Lesson: Romans 10:5-15 (NRSV)

The title of our lesson for today from chapter 10, verses 5-15 of the Epistle to the Romans is “Salvation is for all.” Paul speaks about the relationship between belief and the assurance of salvation. This part of Paul’s letter is about the good news and about those who bring the good news. Listen to a reading from Romans:

Reading from Romans 10:5-15 Salvation is for All

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because^[a] if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Introduction to the Gospel Lesson: Matthew 14:22-33 – The Message

We continue reading from the gospel of Matthew, chapter 14. Last Sunday we read the story of Jesus’ miracle of his feeding 5,000 souls out on a hillside. Today we read a more spectacular story. In the beginning of this

chapter Jesus learns of the awful death of John the Baptist. In his grief, Jesus tries to get way to a quiet place to pray and grieve. That doesn't happen because the people in the region around the Sea of Galilee find him. So, he teaches and heals and feeds their bodily needs. After the disciples and Jesus had fed the people, Jesus left to walk up to a secluded place on the mountain and he sent the disciples on to the other side. And then a storm comes up. Listen to the rest of the story in Matthew 14.22-33:

A Reading from Matthew 14:22-33 Jesus Walking on the Water

²²⁻²³ As soon as the meal was finished, he insisted that the disciples get in the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he dismissed the people. With the crowd dispersed, he climbed the mountain so he could be by himself and pray. He stayed there alone, late into the night.

²⁴⁻²⁶ Meanwhile, the boat was far out to sea when the wind came up against them and they were battered by the waves. At about four o'clock in the morning, Jesus came toward them walking on the water. They were scared out of their wits. "A ghost!" they said, crying out in terror.

²⁷ But Jesus was quick to comfort them. "Courage, it's me. Don't be afraid."

²⁸ Peter, suddenly bold, said, "Master, if it's really you, call me to come to you on the water." ²⁹⁻³⁰ He said, "Come ahead."

Jumping out of the boat, Peter walked on the water to Jesus. But when he looked down at the waves churning beneath his feet, he lost his nerve and started to sink. He cried, "Master, save me!" ³¹ Jesus didn't hesitate. He reached down and grabbed his hand. Then he said, "Faint-heart, what got into you?" ³²⁻³³ The two of them climbed into the boat, and the wind died down. The disciples in the boat, having watched the whole thing, worshiped Jesus, saying, "This is it! You are God's Son for sure!"