

Scriptures November 23, 2025

First Reading Psalm 126

God has done great things for us

One: When God restored the fortunes of Zion, then we were like the ones who dream.

Many: Then was our mouth filled with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy.

One: Then they said among the nations. "God has done great things for them!"

Many: God has done great things for us! And we are glad indeed.

One: Restore our fortunes, O God, like the watercourses of Negeb

Many: Those who sowed with tears will reap with joy.

One: Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Second Reading

The promise to restore Jerusalem

Joel 2:21-27 NRSV

²¹ Do not fear, O soil;
be glad and rejoice,

for the Lord has done great things!

²² Do not fear, you animals of the field,
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit,
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

²³ O children of Zion, be glad
and rejoice in the Lord your God;
for he has given the early rain^[a] for your vindication,
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.

²⁴ The threshing-floors shall be full of grain,
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

²⁵ I will repay you for the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,

the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent against you.

²⁶ You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the Lord your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be
put to shame.

²⁷ You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.
And my people shall never again
be put to shame.

Third Reading

God Will Take Care of You

Matthew 6:25-33 NRSV

Do Not Worry

²⁵ ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink,^[a] or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?^[b] ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” ³² For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But strive first for the kingdom of God^[c] and his^[d] righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.