

## Pentecost 22 ~ November 5, 2023

### Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story—those he redeemed from the hands of the foe, <sup>3</sup>those he gathered from the lands, from east and west from north and south.**

<sup>4</sup>Some wandered in the desert wasteland finding no way to a city where they could settle. <sup>5</sup>They were hungry and thirsty, their lives wasted away.

<sup>6</sup>**Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble and he delivered them from their distress, <sup>7</sup>He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle.**

<sup>33</sup>The Lord made rivers dry up completely and stopped springs from flowing.

<sup>34</sup>**He made rich soil become a salty wasteland because of the wickedness of those who lived there.**

<sup>35</sup>He changed deserts into pools of water and dry land into flowing springs.

<sup>36</sup>**He let hungry people settle there, and they built a city to live in.**

<sup>37</sup>**They sowed the fields and planted grapevines and reaped an abundant harvest.**

### Joshua 3:7-17

<sup>7</sup> And the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. <sup>8</sup> Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: ‘When you reach the edge of the Jordan’s waters, go and stand in the river.’”

<sup>9</sup> Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God. <sup>10</sup> This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites. <sup>11</sup> See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. <sup>12</sup> Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. <sup>13</sup> And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the Lord—the Lord of all the earth—set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap.”

<sup>14</sup> So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. <sup>15</sup> Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge, <sup>16</sup> the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. <sup>17</sup> The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry

ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

### 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

<sup>9</sup>You remember our labor and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. <sup>10</sup>You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you believers. <sup>11</sup>As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, <sup>12</sup>urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. <sup>13</sup>We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God’s word, which is also at work in you believers. <sup>14</sup>For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you suffered the same things from your own compatriots as they did from the Jews, <sup>15</sup>who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out; they displease God and oppose everyone <sup>16</sup>by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. Thus they have constantly been filling up the measure of their sins; but God’s wrath has overtaken them at last. <sup>17</sup>As for us, brothers and sisters, when, for a short time, we were made orphans by being separated from you—in person, not in heart—we longed with great eagerness to see you face to face. <sup>18</sup>For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, wanted to again and again—but Satan blocked our way. <sup>19</sup>For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? <sup>20</sup>Yes, you are our glory and joy!

### Matthew 23:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, <sup>2</sup>“The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; <sup>3</sup>therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. <sup>4</sup>They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. <sup>5</sup>They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. <sup>6</sup>They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, <sup>7</sup>and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. <sup>8</sup>But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. <sup>9</sup>And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. <sup>10</sup>Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. <sup>11</sup>The greatest among you will be your servant. <sup>12</sup>All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.