

Proper 27 The Bishop Visits St. Stephens

LECTIONARY

FIRST READING

NUMBERS 27:1-23

Then the daughters of Zelophehad came forward. Zelophehad was son of Hepher son of Gilead son of Machir son of Manasseh son of Joseph, a member of the Manassite clans. The names of his daughters were: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. They stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the leaders, and all the congregation, at the entrance of the tent of meeting, and they said, 'Our father died in the wilderness; he was not among the company of those who gathered themselves together against the Lord in the company of Korah, but died for his own sin; and he had no sons. Why should the name of our father be taken away from his clan because he had no son? Give to us a possession among our father's brothers.' Moses brought their case before the Lord. And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: The daughters of Zelophehad are right in what they are saying; you shall indeed let them possess an inheritance among their father's brothers and pass the inheritance of their father on to them. You shall also say to the Israelites, 'If a man dies, and has no son, then you shall pass his inheritance on to his daughter. If he has no daughter, then you shall give his inheritance to his brothers. If he has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his father's brothers. And if his father has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to the nearest kinsman of his clan, and he shall possess it. It shall be for the Israelites a statute and ordinance, as the Lord commanded Moses.' The Lord said to Moses, 'Go up this mountain of the Abarim range, and see the land that I have given to the Israelites. When you have seen it, you also shall be gathered to your people, as your brother Aaron was, because you rebelled against my word in the wilderness of Zin when the congregation quarrelled with me. You did not show my holiness before their eyes at the waters.' (These are the waters of Meribath-kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.) Moses spoke to the Lord, saying, 'Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint someone over the congregation who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, so that the congregation of the Lord may not be like sheep without a shepherd.' So the Lord said to Moses, 'Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay your hand upon him; have him stand before Eleazar the priest and all the congregation, and commission him in their sight. You shall give him some

of your authority, so that all the congregation of the Israelites may obey. But he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the decision of the Urim before the Lord; at his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he and all the Israelites with him, the whole congregation.' So Moses did as the Lord commanded him. He took Joshua and had him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole congregation; he laid his hands on him and commissioned him—as the Lord had directed through Moses.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God

PS&LM 139:1-9

1 LORD, you have searched me out and known me; *

you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places *

and are acquainted with all my ways. 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *

but you, O Lord, know it altogether. 4 You press upon me behind and before *

and lay your hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *

it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? * where can I flee from your presence? 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are

there; *

if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

8 If I take the wings of the morning * and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea.

9 Even there your hand will lead me * and your right hand hold me fast.

SECOND READING

ACT 6:1-7

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait at tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.' What they said pleased the whole communi-

ty, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God

Sequence Hymn: "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" #608

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew**.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 14:22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves,

was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.' Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ

Prayers of the People

After the lay leader has said the first prayer, please feel free, as the spirit moves you, to say the next prayer. If two or more start together please continue together

Please respond to each of these prayers with the phrase: Christ hear us!

Let us pray for the worldwide Anglican Communion, especially the Anglican Church Portugal;

We Pray... Christ hear us!

We pray also for all in the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona, especially our sisters and brothers at the Canterbury Episcopal Campus Ministry in Flagstaff;

We pray. . . Christ hear us!

Let us pray for our nation, as early voting continues and election day draws near, we ask God to bless us with divine wisdom;

We pray. . . Christ hear us!

We pray for our Armed Forces, for their safety and the wellbeing of their families and loved ones:

We pray. . . Christ hear us!

Let us pray for our world, asking God's blessings for all in central Italy who lost their homes and livelihoods in the recent earthquake;

We pray. . . Christ hear us!

We pray for Sierra Vista and our surrounding area, giving thanks to God for the cooler weather;

We pray. . . Christ hear us!

Let us pray for those who are poor, sick, mourning or experiencing any kind of suffering. Please say aloud the names of any for whom you wish to pray;

Pause for people to mention names then say:

We pray. . . Christ hear us!

Let us pray for our friends and loved ones, who have departed this life, may they enjoy the glory of the heavenly city. Please say the names of any for whom you wish to pray;

Pause for people to mention names then say:

We pray. . . Christ hear us!