

# Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

**05 November 2023**

## **Collect**

Creator God,  
you have filled the world with beauty:  
open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works,  
that, rejoicing in your whole creation,  
we may learn to serve you with gladness,  
for the sake of him through whom all things were made,  
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## **1st Reading**

### **Revelations 7:9-17**

**9** After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

**10** And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

**11** All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

**12** saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

**13** Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?"

**14** I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

**15** Therefore, “they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

**16** ‘Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them, nor any scorching heat.

**17** For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; ‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’ ”

## **Psalm**

### **Psalm 39:1-10 & 22**

**1** I said, “I will watch my ways and keep my tongue from sin; I will put a muzzle on my mouth while in the presence of the wicked.”

**2** So I remained utterly silent, not even saying anything good. But my anguish increased;

**3** my heart grew hot within me. While I meditated, the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue:

**4** “Show me, LORD, my life’s end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is.

**5** You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Everyone is but a breath, even those who seem secure.

**6** “Surely everyone goes around like a mere phantom; in vain they rush about, heaping up wealth without knowing whose it will finally be.

**7** “But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in you.

**8** Save me from all my transgressions; do not make me the scorn of fools.

**9** I was silent; I would not open my mouth, for you are the one who has done this.

**10** Remove your scourge from me; I am overcome by the blow of your hand.

## **2nd Reading**

### **1 John 3:1-3**

**1** See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

**2** Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

**3** All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

## **Gospel reading**

### **Matthew 5:1-12**

**1** Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

**2** He said:

**3** “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**4** Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

**5** Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

**6** Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

**7** Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

**8** Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

**9** Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

**10** Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**11** “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

**12** Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.