

Season of Creation

Sunday, September 7

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 18.1-11

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: “Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.” So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I

had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you, from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Taanit 23a

Reader: A Reading from the Babylonian Talmud

While the sage, Honi, was walking along a road, he saw a man planting a carob tree. Honi asked him, "How long will it take for this tree to bear fruit?" "Seventy years," replied the man. Honi then asked, "Are you so healthy a man that you expect to live that length of time and eat its fruit?" The man answered, "I found a fruitful world because my ancestors planted it for me. Likewise I am planting for my children."

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

***All:* Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING

Luke 12.13-21 (FNV)

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Priest: Shining Light tells the Good Story of Creator Sets Free.

All: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Someone from the crowd pushed forward and said to him, "Wisdomkeeper, tell my brother to give me my part of what our father left to us." Creator Sets Free (Jesus) said to him, "Who made me the one to decide this between you and your brother? Watch your step, or greed will make you stumble. Remember, one's life is not made up of many possessions." There were many people in the crowd who heard what he said about possessions, so he told this story to help them see more clearly. "A man with many possessions had a field that was growing a great harvest of food. 'What will I do with all this food?' he said to himself. 'I have no room in my storage barns for this great harvest.' "The man thought about it and then said to himself again, 'I know what I will do, I will tear down my old storage

barns and build larger ones. I will have enough to last me many winters. Then I will take my rest, eat, drink, and celebrate.’ “But the Great Spirit said to him, ‘Why are you being so foolish? This is the day you will cross over to death and give an answer for your life. Now who will get the goods you have stored up for yourself?’” Creator Sets Free (Jesus) let the people think about the story, and then he said, “This is how it will be for the ones who make themselves rich but forget about Creator’s true riches.”

Priest: The Gospel of Christ.

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Luke 12.13-21 (NRSVue)

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."