



PROPER 15

TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
YEAR C

Jeremiah 23:23-29

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah

Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully.

“Am I a God at hand”, says the LORD, “...and not a God afar off? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him?” says the LORD. “Do I not fill heaven and earth?” says the LORD. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying,

‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed!’ How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams which they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Ba'al? Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer which breaks the rock in pieces?

The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 82 [page 705]

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Let us bear patiently the struggle placed upon us.

By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as if on dry land; but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given friendly welcome to the spies. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets -- who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their

dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated -- of whom the world was not worthy -- wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Luke 12:49-56

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**The ✠ Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke**

I have come not to give peace, but discord.

Jesus said to His disciples, "I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled! I have a

baptism to be baptized with; and how I am constrained until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division; for henceforth in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against her mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.” He also said to the multitudes, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, ‘A shower is coming’; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky; but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

The gospel of the Lord.