

## READING: Job 23:1–17

A reading from Job.

Then Job answered:

<sup>2</sup>"Today also my complaint is bitter;  
his hand is heavy despite my groaning.

<sup>3</sup>Oh, that I knew where I might find him,  
that I might come even to his dwelling!

<sup>4</sup>I would lay my case before him,  
and fill my mouth with arguments.

<sup>5</sup>I would learn what he would answer me,  
and understand what he would say to me.

<sup>6</sup>Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power?  
No; but he would give heed to me.

<sup>7</sup>There an upright person could reason with him,  
and I should be acquitted forever by my judge.

<sup>8</sup>"If I go forward, he is not there;  
or backward, I cannot perceive him;

<sup>9</sup>on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him;  
I turn to the right, but I cannot see him.

<sup>10</sup>But he knows the way that I take;  
when he has tested me, I shall come out like gold.

<sup>11</sup>My foot has held fast to his steps;  
I have kept his way and have not turned aside.

<sup>12</sup>I have not departed from the commandment of his lips;  
I have treasured in my bosom the words of his mouth.

<sup>13</sup>But he stands alone and who can dissuade him?  
What he desires, that he does.

<sup>14</sup>For he will complete what he appoints for me;  
and many such things are in his mind.

<sup>15</sup>Therefore I am terrified at his presence;  
when I consider, I am in dread of him.

<sup>16</sup>God has made my heart faint;  
the Almighty has terrified me;

<sup>17</sup>If only I could vanish in darkness,  
and thick darkness would cover my face!

## GOSPEL: John 6: 35, 41–51

<sup>35</sup>Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

<sup>41</sup>Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." <sup>42</sup>They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" <sup>43</sup>Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. <sup>44</sup>No one can come to me unless drawn by the

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Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. <sup>45</sup>It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. <sup>46</sup>Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup>Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup>I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup>Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup>This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup>I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."