

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SUNDAY**  
**August 20, 2023**  
**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

**PSALM 67**

<sup>1</sup> May God be merciful to us and bless us;  
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

<sup>2</sup> Let your way be known upon earth,  
your saving health among all nations.

<sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>4</sup> Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on  
earth.

<sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>6</sup> The earth has brought forth its increase;  
God, our own God, has blessed us.

<sup>7</sup> May God give us blessing,  
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

**READING: ISAIAH 56: 1, 6-8      (Living Bible)**

Be just and fair to all, the Lord God says. Do what's right and good, for I am coming soon to rescue you.

6 As for the Gentiles, the outsiders who join the people of the Lord and serve him and love his name, who are his servants and don't desecrate the Sabbath, and have accepted his covenant and promises, 7 I will bring them also to my holy mountain of Jerusalem and make them full of joy within my House of Prayer. I will accept their sacrifices and offerings, for my Temple shall be called "A House of Prayer for All People"! 8 For the Lord God who brings back the outcasts of Israel says: I will bring others, too, besides my people Israel.

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 15:[10-20]21-28**

[10 [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:11 it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." 12 Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" 13 He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. 14 Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." 15 But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us."

16 Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? 17 Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? 18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. 19 For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. 20 These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."]

<sup>21</sup> Jesus went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." <sup>23</sup> But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." <sup>24</sup> He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." <sup>25</sup> But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." <sup>26</sup> He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>27</sup> She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.