

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

COLLECT

O God, from whom all good doth come: Grant that by thy inspiration we may think those things that are right, and by thy merciful guiding may perform the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING:

Hosea 5:15-6:6

Thus says the Lord, "I will return again to my place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face. In their distress they will beg my favor, saying, 'Come, let us return to the LORD; for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD; his appearing is as sure as the

dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth.' What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets, I have killed them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings."

Psalm 50:7-15

7 Hear, O my people, and I will speak: "O Israel, I will bear witness against you; * for I am God, your God.

8 I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices; * your offerings are always before me.

9 I will take no bull-calf from your stalls, * nor he-goats out of your pens;

10 For all the beasts of the forest are mine, * the herds in their thousands upon the hills.

11 I know every bird in the sky, * and the creatures of the fields are in my sight.

12 If I were hungry, I would not tell you, * for the whole world is mine and all that is in it.

13 Do you think I eat the flesh of bulls, * or drink the blood of goats?

14 Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving * and make good your vows to the Most High.

15 Call upon me in the day of trouble; *
I will deliver you, and you
shall honor me."

SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-18

The promise to Abraham and his descendants, that they would inherit the world, did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adher-

ents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") -- in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be."

GOSPEL: Matthew 9:9-13

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this,

they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

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