

Prayer of the Week: O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and so great dangers that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: grant us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

This week's readings: – Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-5, 12-18 (page 370 in the Prayer Book); Philemon 1-25; Luke 14:25-35 (All readings are taken from *The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible*)

Next week's readings: Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost – HOLY CROSS Numbers 21:4b-9; Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38; 1 Corinthians 1:18-24; John 3:13-17

Hymns:

Opening – We have a Gospel to Proclaim AHB 189 tune FULDA

Offertory – Take my Life and Let it Be AHB 520 tune SAVANNAH

Post communion – O Jesus I have Promised AHB 514 tune THORNBURY (AHB 389)

Jeremiah 18:1-11

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: ² 'Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words.' ³ So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. ⁴ 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.

⁵ Then the word of the Lord came to me: ⁶ 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. ⁷ At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, ⁸ 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. ⁹ And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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.

Psalm 139:1-5, 12-18 (page 370 in the Prayer Book)

1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me:

You know when I sit or when I stand, you comprehend my thoughts long before.

2 You discern my path and the places where I rest:

You are acquainted with all my way.

3 For there is not a word on my tongue:

But you, Lord, know it altogether.

4 You have encompassed me behind and before:

And have laid your hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me:

So high that I cannot endure it.

12 For you have created my inward parts:

You knit me together in my mother's womb.

13 I will praise you, for you are to be feared:

Fearful are your acts, and wonderful your work.

14 You knew my soul, and my bones were not hidden from you:

When I was formed in secret, and woven in the depths of the earth.

15 Your eyes saw my limbs when they were yet imperfect:

And in your book were all my members within.

16 Day by day they were fashioned:

And not one was late in growing.

17 How deep are your thoughts to me, O God:

And how great is the sum of them!

18 Were I to count them, they are more in number than the sand:

Were I to come to the end, I would still be with you.

Philemon 1-25

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ² to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow-soldier, and to the church in your house:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith towards the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸ For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful¹¹ both to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for ever, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but as more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

²² One thing more—prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping through your prayers to be restored to you.

²³ Epaphras, my fellow-prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, ²⁴ and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow-workers.

²⁵ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.