

**THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> August 2009**

**First Reading** (shorter version) **Josh. 24:1-2, 15-18**  
**A reading from the book of Joshua**  
*We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God.*

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods.

Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm** **Psalm 33(34)**  
**Response:** *Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, hearted;  
his praise always on my lips; those whose spirit is crushed he will  
in the Lord my soul shall make its save. **R.**  
boast.

The humble shall hear and be glad. **R.** 4. Many are the trials of the just man  
but from them all the Lord will  
rescue him.

2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked, He will keep guard over all his bones,  
to destroy their remembrance from not one of his bones shall be broken. **R.**  
the earth.

The Lord turns his eyes to the just and his ears to their appeal. **R.** 5. Evil brings death to the wicked:  
those who hate the good are doomed.  
The Lord ransoms the souls of his  
servants.

3. They call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress. **R.** Those who hide in him shall not be  
condemned.

The Lord is close to the broken-

**Second Reading** **Eph. 5:21-32**  
**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians**  
*This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.*

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Saviour. Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, so as to present the church to himself in splendour, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind — yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, because we are members of his body. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church.  
Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**  
**Alleluia! Alleluia!** Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:  
You have the words of everlasting life. **Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL** **Jn. 6:60-69**  
✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John  
℟: **Glory to you Lord Christ.**  
*Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of eternal life.*

Many of his disciples of Jesus said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?”

But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?”

Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”  
For the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you Lord Christ.**