Proper 25 – Year C  
Sunday closest to October 26

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| [Joel 2:23-32](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearC_RCL/Pentecost/CProp25_RCL.html#reading) Psalm 65  Or Sirach 35:12-17 *or* [Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearC_RCL/Pentecost/CProp25_RCL.html#OLDTEST) [Psalm 84:1-6](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearC_RCL/Pentecost/CProp25_RCL.html#PSALM)  2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Luke 18:9-14 | | |  |  | |
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**Proper 25 – Year C**

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Joel 2:23-32**

O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame. Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit. I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

**Psalm 65**

1 You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; \*

to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.

2 To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, \*

because of their transgressions.

3 Our sins are stronger than we are, \*

but you will blot them out.

4 Happy are they whom you choose

and draw to your courts to dwell there! \*

they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house,

by the holiness of your temple.

5 Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness,

O God of our salvation, \*

O Hope of all the ends of the earth

and of the seas that are far away.

6 You make fast the mountains by your power; \*

they are girded about with might.

7 You still the roaring of the seas, \*

the roaring of their waves,

and the clamor of the peoples.

8 Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; \*

you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.

9 You visit the earth and water it abundantly;

you make it very plenteous; \*

the river of God is full of water.

10 You prepare the grain, \*

for so you provide for the earth.

11 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; \*

with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its

increase.

12 You crown the year with your goodness, \*

and your paths overflow with plenty.

13 May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, \*

and the hills be clothed with joy.

14 May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,

and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; \*

let them shout for joy and sing.

**OR**

**Sirach 35:12-17**

Give to the Most High as he has given to you, and as generously as you can afford. For the Lord is the one who repays, and he will repay you sevenfold. Do not offer him a bribe, for he will not accept it; and do not rely on a dishonest sacrifice; for the Lord is the judge, and with him there is no partiality. He will not show partiality to the poor; but he will listen to the prayer of one who is wronged. He will not ignore the supplication of the orphan, or the widow when she pours out her complaint.

**OR**

**Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22**

Although our iniquities testify against us, act, O Lord, for your name’s sake; our apostasies indeed are many, and we have sinned against you. O hope of Israel, its savior in time of trouble, why should you be like a stranger in the land, like a traveler turning aside for the night? Why should you be like someone confused, like a mighty warrior who cannot give help? Yet you, O Lord, are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name; do not forsake us! Thus says the Lord concerning this people: Truly they have loved to wander, they have not restrained their feet; therefore the Lord does not accept them, now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins.

Have you completely rejected Judah? Does your heart loathe Zion? Why have you struck us down so that there is no healing for us? We look for peace, but find no good; for a time of healing, but there is terror instead. We acknowledge our wickedness, O Lord, the iniquity of our ancestors, for we have sinned against you. Do not spurn us, for your name’s sake; do not dishonor your glorious throne; remember and do not break your covenant with us. Can any idols of the nations bring rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Is it not you, O Lord our God? We set our hope on you, for it is you who do all this.

**Psalm 84:1-6**

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! \*

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the

LORD;

my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 The sparrow has found her a house

and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \*

by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,

my King and my God.

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*

they will always be praising you.

4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find

it a place of springs, \*

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

6 They will climb from height to height, \*

and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

**2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18**

I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion’s mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Luke 18:9-14**

Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

**合時儀文第二十五式**

**祝文**全能永生的上帝，求你將信德、望德、和愛德、多多賜給我們：使我們可以得著你的應許，又能夠敬愛你的命令；這都是靠著我們的主耶穌基督，聖子和聖父聖靈，一同永生，一同掌權，惟一上帝，永無窮盡。阿們。

**約珥書2:23-32**

錫安的民哪，你們要快樂，為耶和華─你們的上帝歡喜；因他賜給你們合宜的秋雨，為你們降下甘霖，就是秋雨、春雨，和先前一樣。禾場必滿了麥子；酒醡與油醡必有新酒和油盈溢。我打發到你們中間的大軍隊，就是蝗蟲、蝻子、螞蚱、剪蟲，那些年所吃的，我要補還你們。你們必多吃而得飽足，就讚美為你們行奇妙事之耶和華─你們上帝的名。我的百姓必永遠不致羞愧。你們必知道我是在以色列中間，又知道我是耶和華─你們的上帝；在我以外並無別神。我的百姓必永遠不致羞愧。以後，我要將我的靈澆灌凡有血氣的。你們的兒女要說預言；你們的老年人要做異夢，少年人要見異象。在那些日子，我要將我的靈澆灌我的僕人和使女。「在天上地下，我要顯出奇事，有血，有火，有煙柱。日頭要變為黑暗，月亮要變為血，這都在耶和華大而可畏的日子未到以前。到那時候，凡求告耶和華名的就必得救；因為照耶和華所說的，在錫安山，耶路撒冷必有逃脫的人，在剩下的人中必有耶和華所召的。」

詩篇 65

1 上帝啊，錫安的人都等候讚美你；\*

所許的願也要向你償還。

2 聽禱告的主啊，\*

凡有血氣的都要來就你。

3 罪孽勝了我；\*

至於我們的過犯，你都要赦免。

4 你所揀選、使他親近你、

住在你院中的，這人便為有福！\*

我們必因你居所、

你聖殿的美福知足了。

5 拯救我們的上帝啊，

你必以威嚴秉公義應允我們；\*

你本是一切地極

和海上遠處的人所倚靠的。

6 他既以大能束腰，\*

就用力量安定諸山，

7 使諸海的響聲和其中波浪的響聲，\*

並萬民的喧嘩，都平靜了。

8 住在地極的人因你的神蹟懼怕﹔\*

你使日出日落之地都歡呼。

9 你眷顧地，降下透雨，\*

使地大得肥美。

上帝的河滿了水﹔

10 你預備了五穀，\*

為人澆灌了地。

11 你澆透地的犁溝，潤平犁脊，\*

降甘霖，使地軟和;其中發長的，蒙你賜福。

12 你以恩典為年歲的冠冕﹔\*

你的路徑都滴下脂油，

13 滴在曠野的草場上，\*

小山以歡樂束腰。

14 草場以羊群為衣﹔

谷中也長滿了五穀。\*

這一切都歡呼歌唱。

**或**

**便西拉智訓 35:12-17**

按著上帝所賜給你的，再奉獻給他，

       按著你所得來的，歡顏悅色的奉上去；

因為上帝是施行酬報的，

       上帝必要加七倍的報答你。

不可行賄賂，因為主必不領受你的禮物。

       不要倚靠無義的祭物，

因為上帝是公正的，

       在他並沒有偏私；

他絕沒有一點偏私而苦害窮人；

       被欺壓之人的祈禱，他必俯聽。

孤兒的呼籲，他必不輕忽；

       寡婦的哀冤，他必不藐視。

**或**

**耶利米書14:7-10,19-22**

耶和華啊，我們的罪孽雖然作見證告我們，還求你為你名的緣故行事。我們本是多次背道，得罪了你。以色列所盼望、在患難時作他救主的啊，你為何在這地像寄居的，又像行路的只住一宵呢？你為何像受驚的人，像不能救人的勇士呢？耶和華啊，你仍在我們中間；我們也稱為你名下的人，求你不要離開我們。耶和華對這百姓如此說：這百姓喜愛妄行（原文是飄流），不禁止腳步，所以耶和華不悅納他們。現今要記念他們的罪孽，追討他們的罪惡。你全然棄掉猶大嗎？你心厭惡錫安嗎？為何擊打我們，以致無法醫治呢？我們指望平安，卻得不著好處；指望痊癒，不料，受了驚惶。耶和華啊，我們承認自己的罪惡，和我們列祖的罪孽，因我們得罪了你。求你為你名的緣故，不厭惡我們，不辱沒你榮耀的寶座。求你追念，不要背了與我們所立的約。外邦人虛無的神中有能降雨的嗎？天能自降甘霖嗎？耶和華─我們的上帝啊，能如此的不是你嗎？所以，我們仍要等候你，因為這一切都是你所造的。

**詩篇84:1-6**

1 萬軍之耶和華啊，你的居所何等可愛！\*

我羨慕渴想耶和華的院宇﹔

我的心腸，我的肉體向永生上帝呼籲。

2 在你祭壇那裡，麻雀為自己找著房屋，

燕子為自己找著菢雛之窩。\*

萬軍之耶和華─我的王，我的上帝啊！

3 如此住在你殿中的便為有福！\*

他們仍要讚美你。

4 靠你有力量、心中想往錫安大道的，\*

這人便為有福。

5 他們經過「流淚谷」，叫這谷變為泉源之地；\*

並有秋雨之福蓋滿了全谷。

6 他們行走，力上加力，\*

各人到錫安朝見上帝。

7 耶和華─萬軍之上帝啊，求你聽我的禱告！\*

雅各的上帝啊，求你留心聽！

8 上帝啊，你是我們的盾牌；\*

求你垂顧觀看你受膏者的面！

9 在你的院宇住一日，

勝似在別處住千日；\*

寧可在我上帝殿中看門，

不願住在惡人的帳棚裡。

10 因為耶和華─上帝是日頭，是盾牌，\*

要賜下恩惠和榮耀。

11 他未嘗留下一樣好處\*

不給那些行動正直的人。

12 萬軍之耶和華啊，\*

倚靠你的人便為有福。

**提摩太後書4:6-8,16-18**

我現在被澆奠，我離世的時候到了。那美好的仗我已經打過了，當跑的路我已經跑盡了，所信的道我已經守住了。從此以後，有公義的冠冕為我存留，就是按著公義審判的主到了那日要賜給我的；不但賜給我，也賜給凡愛慕他顯現的人。我初次申訴，沒有人前來幫助，竟都離棄我；但願這罪不歸與他們。惟有主站在我旁邊，加給我力量，使福音被我盡都傳明，叫外邦人都聽見；我也從獅子口裡被救出來。主必救我脫離諸般的凶惡，也必救我進他的天國。願榮耀歸給他，直到永永遠遠。阿們。

**路加福音 18:9-14**

耶穌向那些仗著自己是義人，藐視別人的，設一個比喻，說：「有兩個人上殿裡去禱告：一個是法利賽人，一個是稅吏。法利賽人站著，自言自語地禱告說：『上帝啊，我感謝你，我不像別人勒索、不義、姦淫，也不像這個稅吏。』我一個禮拜禁食兩次，凡我所得的都捐上十分之一。』那稅吏遠遠地站著，連舉目望天也不敢，只捶著胸說：『上帝啊，開恩可憐我這個罪人！』我告訴你們，這人回家去比那人倒算為義了；因為，凡自高的，必降為卑；自卑的，必升為高。」