

7/5/26 OLD TESTAMENT READING Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

 Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
behold, your king is coming to you;
 righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
 on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
 and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
 and he shall speak peace to the nations;
his rule shall be from sea to sea,
 and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my
covenant with you,

 I will set your prisoners free from the waterless
pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
 today I declare that I will restore to you double.

¹⁴We know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. ¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

²⁵At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Scripture Readings for July 12, 2026: **Isaiah 55:10–13, Romans 8:12–17, Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23.** You will benefit from reading them ahead of time. You can help Pastor prepare his sermons by sharing your questions and comments!

Prayer Requests

✝ **For Church members:** Joan, Tremayne, Mickey, Brad, Don W, Jean M, Kathy M, Millie M

✝ **For others who ask for prayer:** Steve, Norman, Karen, Ron, Rick, John, Dean, Thelma, Erin, Ann, Melody, Shannon and her 3 children, Erik, Jan's aunt Elaine, brother Lyle, and cousin Brad; Scott, Janelle, Mary

Prayer for all the sick and distressed: Merciful God, graciously take into Your fatherly care the sick and needy, those who are widowed and orphaned, the homeless and homebound, the lonely and forgotten, and all who are in any trouble, temptation, anguish of labor, peril of death, or any other adversity (*especially [name(s)]*). Comfort them, O God, with Your Holy Spirit that they may patiently endure their afflictions and acknowledge them as a manifestation of Your fatherly will. Preserve them from faintheartedness and despondency, and help them to seek You, the great physician of their souls. If any pass through the valley of the shadow of death, do not allow them in the last hour, for any pain or fear of death, to fall away from You, but let Your everlasting arms be underneath them, and grant them a peaceful departure and a joyful entrance into Your eternal kingdom in the resurrection of all flesh; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Acknowledgments

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