

## SERIES A TEXTS

### Lectionary 31

#### Micah 3:5-12

<sup>5</sup> Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who lead my people astray, who cry "Peace" when they have something to eat, but declare war against those who put nothing into their mouths. <sup>6</sup> Therefore it shall be night to you, without vision, and darkness to you, without revelation. The sun shall go down upon the prophets, and the day shall be black over them; <sup>7</sup> the seers shall be disgraced, and the diviners put to shame; they shall all cover their lips, for there is no answer from God. <sup>8</sup> But as for me, I am filled with power, with the spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin. <sup>9</sup> Hear this, you rulers of the house of Jacob and chiefs of the house of Israel, who abhor justice and pervert all equity, <sup>10</sup> who build Zion with blood and Jerusalem with wrong! <sup>11</sup> Its rulers give judgment for a bribe, its priests teach for a price, its prophets give oracles for money; yet they lean upon the LORD and say, "Surely the LORD is with us! No harm shall come upon us." <sup>12</sup> Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the house a wooded height.

#### Psalm 43

<sup>1</sup> Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people; from those who are deceitful and unjust deliver me! <sup>2</sup> For you are the God in whom I take refuge; why have you cast me off? Why must I walk about mournfully because of the oppression of the enemy? <sup>3</sup> O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling. <sup>4</sup> Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy; and I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God. <sup>5</sup> Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 2:9-13

<sup>9</sup> You remember our labor and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. <sup>10</sup> You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you believers. <sup>11</sup> As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, <sup>12</sup> urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. <sup>13</sup> We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers.

#### Matthew 23:1-12

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, <sup>2</sup> "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; <sup>3</sup> therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. <sup>4</sup> They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. <sup>5</sup> They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes

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long. <sup>6</sup> They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, <sup>7</sup> and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. <sup>8</sup> But **you** are not to be called rabbi, for **you** have one teacher, and **you** are all students. <sup>9</sup> And call no one **your** father on earth, for **you** have one Father-- the one in heaven. <sup>10</sup> Nor are **you** to be called instructors, for **you** have one instructor, the Messiah. <sup>11</sup> The greatest among **you** will be **your** servant. <sup>12</sup> All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.