

SERIES A TEXTS

Lectionary 9

Deuteronomy 1:18-21, 26-28

¹⁸ So I charged **you** at that time with all the things that **you** should do. ¹⁹ Then, just as the LORD our God had ordered us, we set out from Horeb and went through all that great and terrible wilderness that **you** saw, on the way to the hill country of the Amorites, until we reached Kadesh-barnea. ²⁰ I said to **you**, "**You** have reached the hill country of the Amorites, which the LORD our God is giving us. ²¹ See, the LORD **your** God has given the land to **you**; go up, take possession, as the LORD, the God of **your** ancestors, has promised **you**; do not fear or be dismayed."

²⁶ But **you** were unwilling to go up. **You** rebelled against the command of the LORD **your** God; ²⁷ **you** grumbled in **your** tents and said, "It is because the LORD hates us that he has brought us out of the land of Egypt, to hand us over to the Amorites to destroy us. ²⁸ Where are we headed? Our kindred have made our hearts melt by reporting, 'The people are stronger and taller than we; the cities are large and fortified up to heaven! We actually saw there the offspring of the Anakim!'"

Psalm 31:1-5, 19-24

¹ In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me. ² Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me. ³ You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me, ⁴ take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge. ⁵ Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

¹⁹ O how abundant is your goodness that you have laid up for those who fear you, and accomplished for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of everyone! ²⁰ In the shelter of your presence you hide them from human plots; you hold them safe under your shelter from contentious tongues. ²¹ Blessed be the LORD, for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me when I was beset as a city under siege. ²² I had said in my alarm, "I am driven far from your sight." But you heard my supplications when I cried out to you for help. ²³ Love the LORD, all **you** his saints. The LORD preserves the faithful, but abundantly repays the one who acts haughtily. ²⁴ Be strong, and let **your** heart take courage, all **you** who wait for the LORD.

Romans 1:16-17, 3:22b-28 [29-31]

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith."

^{3:22b} For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By

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what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law. ²⁹ Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, ³⁰ since God is one; and he will justify the circumcised on the ground of faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith. ³¹ Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

Matthew 7:21-29

²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?' ²³ Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew **you**; go away from me, **you** evildoers.' ²⁴ "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. ²⁵ The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell-- and great was its fall!" ²⁸ Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, ²⁹ for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.