

Friends of the Chapel Weekly Scripture Study

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 21, 2026

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 20:7–13

English Standard Version Scripture Text

⁷ O LORD, you have deceived me, and I was deceived; you are stronger than I, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all the day; everyone mocks me. ⁸ For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, “Violence and destruction!” For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. ⁹ If I say, “I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,” there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. For I hear many whispering. Terror is on every side! “Denounce him! Let us denounce him!” say all my close friends, watching for my fall. “Perhaps he will be deceived; then we can overcome him and take our revenge on him.” ¹¹ But the LORD is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. ¹² O LORD of hosts, who tests the righteous, who sees the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause. ¹³ Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.

Historical Context

Jeremiah ministered during the final decades of Judah. His message often brought ridicule and opposition, yet he remained faithful to God's calling.

Verse-by-Verse Exegetical Commentary

Verse 7 – Jeremiah laments the burden of his calling.

Verses 8–9 – God’s word compels him to continue speaking.

Verse 10 – His enemies seek his downfall.

Verse 11 – Jeremiah trusts that the LORD is with him.

Verses 12–13 – He entrusts his cause to God and responds with praise.

Theological Themes

- The cost of faithful witness
- Honest prayer
- Divine presence in suffering
- Trust amid opposition

Epistle Reading

Romans 6:12–23

English Standard Version Scripture Text

¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.

¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Slaves to Righteousness

¹⁵ What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Historical Context

Paul explains how believers, united with Christ, are called to reject the rule of sin and live in obedience to God.

Verse-by-Verse Exegetical Commentary

Verses 12–14 – Believers are not to let sin reign in their lives.

Verses 15–18 – Freedom from sin leads to obedience.

Verses 19–20 – Paul contrasts slavery to sin with service to righteousness.

Verses 21–22 – Righteousness leads to holiness and life.

Verse 23 – The wages of sin is death, but God's gift is eternal life.

Theological Themes

- Sanctification
- Freedom from sin
- Obedience and righteousness
- Eternal life through Christ

Concluding Reflection

Jeremiah demonstrates perseverance amid opposition, while Paul calls believers to reject the power of sin and embrace righteousness. Together, these readings remind us that discipleship involves struggle, grace, and faithful dependence upon God.

Thoughts to Consider

1. What can we learn from Jeremiah's honesty about his struggles?
2. Why does Jeremiah continue speaking despite opposition?
3. What does Paul mean by not letting sin reign?
4. How does Paul define true freedom?
5. What practical steps help believers live in righteousness?