



ST. FRANCIS  
IN THE FIELDS  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Please read the lesson from the lectern.*

**THE LESSON**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 17**

**5:00 PM**

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

*Reader says:* **A reading from the letter to the Hebrews**

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

*Reader:* **The Word of the Lord.**

*People:* Thanks be to God.

*Pause, then read the Psalm.*

*Reader says: Psalm 82 will be read responsively by whole verse.*

**Reader**     **God takes his stand in the council of heaven; he gives judgment in the midst of the gods:**

**People**     “How long will you judge unjustly, and show favor to the wicked?

**Reader**     **Save the weak and the orphan; defend the humble and needy;**

**People**     Rescue the weak and the poor; deliver them from the power of the wicked.

**Reader**     **They do not know, neither do they understand; they go about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.**

**People**     Now I say to you, ‘You are gods, and all of you children of the Most High;

**Reader**     **Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.’”**

**People**     Arise, O God, and rule the earth, for you shall take all nations for your own.

*Pause, then read the Psalm.*

*Reader says: Psalm 33, verses 12 through 22, will be read responsively by whole verse.*

**Reader**     **Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord! happy the people he has chosen to be his own!**

**People**     The Lord looks down from heaven, and beholds all the people in the world.

**Reader**     **From where he sits enthroned he turns his gaze on all who dwell on the earth.**

**People**     He fashions all the hearts of them and understands all their works.

**Reader**     **There is no king that can be saved by a mighty army; a strong man is not delivered by his great strength.**

**People**     The horse is a vain hope for deliverance; for all its strength it cannot save.

**Reader**     **Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon those who fear him, on those who wait upon his love,**

**People**     To pluck their lives from death, and to feed them in time of famine.

**Reader**     **Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.**

**People**     Indeed, our heart rejoices in him, for in his holy Name we put our trust.

**Reader**     **Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us, as we have put our trust in you.**