



# Celebrate

Sunday, September 6, 2020  
14th Sunday after Pentecost

*Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.*

## Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-11

*God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.*

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways,

the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

<sup>10</sup>Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

## Psalm

Psalm 119:33-40; refrain, Ps. 119:35



- Teach me, O LORD, the way <sup>1</sup> of your statutes,  
and I shall keep it <sup>1</sup> to the end.
- <sup>34</sup>**Give me understanding, and I shall <sup>1</sup> keep your teaching;  
I shall keep it with <sup>1</sup> all my heart.**
- <sup>35</sup>Lead me in the path of <sup>1</sup> your commandments,  
for that is <sup>1</sup> my desire.
- <sup>36</sup>**Incline my heart to <sup>1</sup> your decrees  
and not to <sup>1</sup> unjust gain. R**
- <sup>37</sup>Turn my eyes from be- <sup>1</sup> holding falsehood;  
give me life <sup>1</sup> in your way.
- <sup>38</sup>**Fulfill your promise <sup>1</sup> to your servant,  
which is for <sup>1</sup> those who fear you.**
- <sup>39</sup>Turn away the reproach <sup>1</sup> that I dread,  
because your judg- <sup>1</sup> ments are good.
- <sup>40</sup>**Behold, I long for <sup>1</sup> your commandments;  
by your righteousness en- <sup>1</sup> liven me. R**