

June 22nd, 2025 Lectionary Notes

The Readings on This Day

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The Readings on This Day

Lectionary 12

We continue through Luke and another narrative of Jesus healing the sick. Today also we encounter one of the shining New Testament gems, Galatians 3:28, Paul's call to unity in Christ, which two thousand years later continues to challenge the church.

[Isaiah 65:1-9](#)

The poem in Isaiah 65 put in God's mouth is chosen to complement the Luke 8 story because of its details—sitting among the tombs, eating swine—typify those who are unfaithful to the covenant. When are we guilty of similar uncleanness? Yet God calls us for a blessing.

[The Psalm for the Day](#)

Having heard God's call to return to lives of faithfulness, we join together to sing [Psalm 22:19-28](#). We know Psalm 22 from Good Friday. Its first eighteen verses that describe the suffering one conclude with today's verses (19-28), in which our prayer for deliverance has been heard, and we praise God before "the assembly." We ready ourselves to hear about and identify with the madman of the gospel reading.

[Galatians 3:23-29](#)

Luke's writings assume that life continued under the distinctions of Jew and Greek, but several decades prior, Paul had called the Christian community to live beyond these categories. The rejection of the ethnic categories of Jew and Greek occupied Christian consciousness in the first century. Facing the distinctions of "slave and free" came in the nineteenth century, and issues relating to "male and female" continue into the twenty-first century. Much religious practice assists persons to live in their culture; yet Paul challenges his readers to be shockingly counter-cultural.

[Luke 8:26-39](#)

Situated in an alien worldview, in which for example demons cause insanity, talk with Jesus, and reside in an underground level of the earth, the graphic pig story may strike us as somewhat comic. Yet the narrative calls us to join the madman in acclaiming Christ as Son of God and, now that we are healed, in telling others what Jesus has done for us. The white robe of our baptism is like the clothing in which we sit at the feet of Jesus.

