

Scripture Reading for July 6, 2025, Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

THE FIRST READING Deuteronomy 15:1-2, 7-11 *(Inclusive Bible Translation)*

Reader: Our readings are from the **Inclusive Bible** translation, and the first reading today is from the fifteenth chapter of Deuteronomy where Moses conveys the Lord's commandments to the Israelites:

¹ At the end of every seven years you must forgive all debts. ² This is how it is to be done: Every creditor must cancel all loans made to another Israelite. Payment of the debt cannot be demanded, for YHWH's time of the forgiveness of debts has been proclaimed.

⁷ If there is anyone among you who is in need in any of the towns in the land that YHWH, your God, is giving you, you must not be harsh or stingy toward your sisters and brothers you are in need. ⁸ You must be generous, and ready to lend to those who need help of any kind. ⁹ Have care that you do not harbor the base thought, "The seventh year, the year of the forgiveness of debts approaches," and so show ill will toward your needy sisters or brothers and give them nothing. They might appeal to YHWH against you, and you would be found guilty. ¹⁰ Be generous to them and not with a grudging heart; and in return, YHWH will bless you in all things that you undertake and in all your endeavors. ¹¹ There will always be those among us in the world who are in need, so I require of you that you be always generous with the poor and needy in your land.

Word of God, word of life.

Response: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING Luke 15:11-32 *(Inclusive Bible Translation)*

Reader: And our Gospel reading today is from the fifteenth chapter of Luke:

Response: Glory to you, O Lord.

Reader: ¹¹ [Jesus] added, "A man had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to their father, 'Give me the share of the estate that is coming to me.' So the father divided up the property between them. ¹³ Some days later, the younger son gathered up his belongings and went off to a distant land. Here he squandered all his money on loose living. ¹⁴ "After everything was spent, a great famine broke out in the land, and the son was in great need. ¹⁵ So he

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Reader: went to a landowner, who sent him to a farm to take care of the pigs. ¹⁶ The son was so hungry that he could have eaten the husks that were fodder for the pigs, but no one made a move to give him anything. ¹⁷ Coming to his senses at last, he said, 'How many hired hands at my father's house have more than enough to eat, while here I am starving! ¹⁸ I'll quit and go back home and say, "I've sinned against God and against you; ¹⁹ I no longer deserve to be called one of your children. Treat me like one of your hired hands.'" ²⁰ With that, the younger son set off for home. "While still a long way off, the father caught sight of the returning child and was deeply moved. The father ran out to meet him, threw his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ The son said to him, 'I've sinned against God and against you; I no longer deserve to be called one of your children.' ²² But his father said to one of the workers, 'Quick! Bring out the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. ²³ Take the calf we've been fattening and butcher it. Let's eat and celebrate! ²⁴ This son of mine was dead and has come back to life. He was lost and now he's found!' And the celebration began.

²⁵ "Meanwhile the elder son had been out in the field. As he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the workers and asked what was happening. ²⁷ The worker answered, 'Your brother is home, and the fatted calf has been killed because your father has him back safe and sound.'

²⁸ "The son got angry at this and refused to go in to the party, but his father came out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ The older son replied, 'Look! For years now I've done every single thing you asked me to do. I never disobeyed even one of your orders, yet you never gave me so much as a kid goat to celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But then this son of yours comes home after going through your money with prostitutes, and you kill the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ "But my child!' the father said. 'You're with me always, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we have to celebrate and rejoice! This brother of yours was dead and has come back to life. He was lost and now he's found.'"

The gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, O Christ.

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NOTE: “Deuteronomy” is pronounced:

Doo – ter – **ahn** – ah – mee

“YHWH” is pronounced:

Yah – way