

## Readings for Sunday, September 3rd, 2017

### Responsive Reading: Psalm 82

God has taken his place in the divine council;  
in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:

**"How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked?**

Give justice to the weak and the orphan;  
maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.

**Rescue the weak and the needy;  
deliver them from the hand of the wicked."**

They have neither knowledge nor understanding,  
they walk around in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

**I say, "You are gods, children of the Most High, all of you;  
nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince."**

Rise up, O God, judge the earth; for all the nations belong to you!

## **Hebrews 11: 29-12:2**

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.

*This is the Word of the Lord*

***Thanks be to God***