

Readings for Sunday, November 19, 2023

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (Year A)

Judges 4:1-7

^{4:1} The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. ²So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. ³Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

⁴At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. ⁵She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. ⁶She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. ⁷I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'"

Judges 5:1-3; 24-31

^{5:1} Then Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying:
²"When locks are long in Israel, when the people offer themselves willingly—
bless the LORD! ³"Hear, O kings; give ear, O princes; to the LORD I will sing, I
will make melody to the LORD, the God of Israel.

²⁴"Most blessed of women be Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, of
tent-dwelling women most blessed. ²⁵He asked water and she gave him milk,
she brought him curds in a lordly bowl. ²⁶She put her hand to the tent peg
and her right hand to the workmen's mallet; she struck Sisera a blow, she
crushed his head, she shattered and pierced his temple. ²⁷He sank, he fell,
he lay still at her feet; at her feet he sank, he fell; where he sank, there he
fell dead. ²⁸"Out of the window she peered, the mother of Sisera gazed

through the lattice: 'Why is his chariot so long in coming? Why tarry the hoofbeats of his chariots?' ²⁹Her wisest ladies make answer, indeed, she answers the question herself: ³⁰'Are they not finding and dividing the spoil?— A girl or two for every man; spoil of dyed stuffs for Sisera, spoil of dyed stuffs embroidered, two pieces of dyed work embroidered for my neck as spoil?' ³¹'So perish all your enemies, O LORD! But may your friends be like the sun as it rises in its might.'" And the land had rest forty years.