

July 26, 2026

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5-12

A reading from the 3rd Chapter of 1st Kings.

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night,
and God said, "Ask what I should give you."

And Solomon said,

"You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David
because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness,
and in uprightness of heart toward you,
and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love
and have given him a son to sit on his throne today.

And now, O LORD my God,

you have made your servant king in place of my father David,
although I am only a little child;

I do not know how to go out or come in.

And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen,
a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted.

Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people,
able to discern between good and evil,
for who can govern this great people of yours?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.

God said to him,

"Because you have asked this

and have not asked for yourself long life or riches
or for the life of your enemies

but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right,
I now do according to your word.

Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind;

no one like you has been before you,

and no one like you shall arise after you."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Second Reading

Romans 8:26-39

A reading from the 8th Chapter of Romans.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness,
for we do not know how to pray as we ought,
but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words.
And God, who searches hearts,
knows what is the mind of the Spirit,
because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God,
who are called according to his purpose.

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined
to be conformed to the image of his Son,
in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.

And those whom he predestined he also called,
and those whom he called he also justified,
and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things?

If God is for us, who is against us?

He who did not withhold his own Son

but gave him up for all of us,

how will he not with him also give us everything else?

Who will bring any charge against God's elect?

It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn?

It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised,

who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will affliction or distress or persecution

or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;

we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than victorious
through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death,

nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,
nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation

will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**