

July 31 - Ordinary 18 (Pent 8)

**1st Reading Hosea 11:1-11 God's Compassion Despite
Israel's Ingratitude**

¹ When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.
² The more I called them,
the more they went from me;
they kept sacrificing to the Baals,
and offering incense to idols.
³ Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk,
I took them up in my arms;
but they did not know that I healed them.
⁴ I led them with cords of human kindness,
with bands of love.
I was to them like those
who lift infants to their cheeks.
I bent down to them and fed them.
⁵ They shall return to the land of Egypt,
and Assyria shall be their king,
because they have refused to return to me.
⁶ The sword rages in their cities,
it consumes their oracle-priests,
and devours because of their schemes.
⁷ My people are bent on turning away from me.
To the Most High they call,
but he does not raise them up at all.
⁸ How can I give you up, Ephraim?
How can I hand you over, O Israel?
How can I make you like Admah?
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?
My heart recoils within me;
my compassion grows warm and tender.
⁹ I will not execute my fierce anger;
I will not again destroy Ephraim;
for I am God and no mortal,
the Holy One in your midst,

and I will not come in wrath.

¹⁰ They shall go after the Lord,
who roars like a lion;

when he roars,

his children shall come trembling from the west.

¹¹ They shall come trembling like birds from Egypt,
and like doves from the land of Assyria;
and I will return them to their homes, says the Lord.

2nd Reading: Luke 12:13-21 The Parable of the Rich Fool

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.’ ¹⁴But he said to him, ‘Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?’ ¹⁵And he said to them, ‘Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.’ ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: ‘The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, “What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?” ¹⁸Then he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” ²⁰But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.’

This is the Living Word

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.