

Readings for July 4th: Independence Day

READING I

Isaiah 57:15-19

Thus says he who is high and exalted,
 Living eternally, whose name is the Holy One:
On high I dwell, and in holiness,
 And with the crushed and dejected in spirit,
To revive the spirits of the dejected,
 To revive the hearts of the crushed.
I will not accuse forever,
 Nor always be angry;
For their spirits would faint before me,
 The souls that I have made.
Because of their wicked avarice I was angry,
 And struck them, hiding myself in wrath,
 As they went their own rebellious way.
I saw their ways,
 But I will heal them and lead them;
I will give full comfort
 To them and to those who mourn for them,
 I, the Creator, who gave them life.

Peace, peace to the far and the near,
 Says the LORD; and I will heal them.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 85:9 and 10, 11-12, 13-14

R./ The Lord speaks of peace to His people.

I will hear what God proclaims;
 The LORD – for he proclaims peace.
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him,
 Glory dwelling in our land. **R./**

Kindness and truth shall meet;
 Justice and peace shall kiss.
Truth shall spring out of the earth,
 And justice shall look down from heaven. **R./**

The LORD himself will give his benefits;
 Our land shall yield its increase.
Justice shall walk before him,
 And salvation, along the way of his steps. **R./**

READING II

Philippians 4:6-9

Brothers and sisters:

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,
By prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
Make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding
Will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers,
whatever is true, whatever is honorable,
whatever is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious,
if there is any excellence
and if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.

Keep on doing what you have learned and received
and heard and seen in me.

Then the God of peace will be with you.

GOSPEL

John 14:23-29

Jesus said to his disciple, Jude:

"Whoever loves me will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.

Whoever does not love me does not keep my words;
yet the word you hear is not mine
but that of the Father who sent me.

"I have told you this while I am with you.
The Advocate, the Holy Spirit—
that the Father will send in my name—
he will teach you everything
and remind you of all that I told you.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

Not as the world gives do I give it to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

You heard me tell you,

'I am going away and I will come back to you.'

If you loved me,

you would rejoice that I am going to the Father;
for the Father is greater than I.

And now I have told you this before it happens,
so that when it happens you may believe."