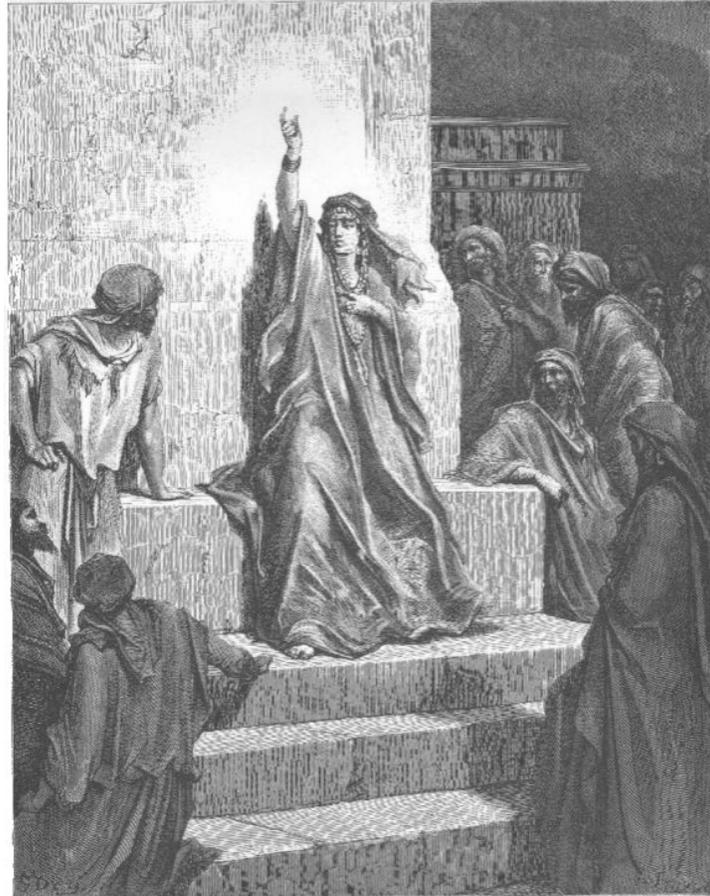


Lectionary Texts for November 19, 2017 • Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost - Year A
Judges 4:1-7 • Psalm 123 • 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 • Matthew 25:14-30



DEBORAH

Judges 4:1-7

Deborah, Wood engraving, 1865

Illustration in *La Grande Bible de Tours*

by Paul Gustave Louis Christophe Doré, French, 1832-1883

Deborah is shown speaking, perhaps exhorting, the crowd of men, who obviously respect her and her judgements. The clear white area on the wall behind her hand emphasizes the energy of her speech.

La Grande Bible de Tours was a new edition of an 1843 French translation of the Vulgate Bible. Doré produced 241 plates for the illustrations, where he dramatically showed not only the wrath of God in the images of the Flood and the Expulsion from the Garden of Eden, but

Continued

also God's mercy and his promise of salvation in the Baptism of Jesus and the Ascension. It was published in two volumes in 1866 and was a huge success.

Doré was born in Strasbourg, France, and demonstrated his drawing skills from an early age. Best known today for his illustrations, he was mainly celebrated for his paintings in his day. He won commissions to depict scenes from books by Cervantes, Rabelais, Balzac, Milton, and Dante. In the 1860's he illustrated a French edition of *Don Quixote*, and the depictions of the knight and his squire became so famous that they influenced subsequent readers, artists, and stage and film directors' ideas of the physical "look" of the two characters.

— *Art curated and narrative provided by Norman Mahan*

Texts: Judges 4:1-7 • Psalm 123 • 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 • Matthew 25:14-30

Judges 4:1-7

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So 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. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had 900 chariots of iron and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly 20 years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She 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. She 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. I 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.'"

Psalm 123

To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he has mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt.

Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!

But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.

So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Matthew 25:14-30

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.

"Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents.

"In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.

"But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

"After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.

"Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.'

"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

"And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.'

"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master'

"Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did

not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

"But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"