



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

*Daily Devotion at Zion + July 2021 AD + **Pentecost Season***

Devotion and Independence Day

As our nation prepares to observe Independence Day, we remember that prayer and a diversity of Christian devotion accompanied its founding.

Virtually every delegate to the Continental Congresses and the constitutional convention belonged to a Christian church and involved himself, in one way or another, with its worship. It was Samuel Adams, a delegate to the Continental Congress from Massachusetts, who requested that the Continental Congress appoint a chaplain for offering prayer, a practice that continues to this day (see “About the Cover Art” below).

While many scholars have debated the personal beliefs of the founding fathers, such preoccupation with their private orthodoxy misses the point: they all shared a worldview formed by the ancient oracles and narratives of Scripture, and they further shared the expectation that their homeland would embrace, as George Washington put it, “our blessed Religion.”

Christian devotion has never remained a purely private matter, nor can it. Knowledge is one thing, understanding another, and desire still another. Faith shapes our love and our understanding of the facts, and therefore, it directs our actions, from the homes we keep to the nations we build. Sin clings closely to those actions, yet it cannot overcome the goodness born of faith in Christ.

About the Cover Art

An unknown artist produced this mezzotint of the Reverend Jacob Duché, an Anglican priest, offering the first officially-sanctioned prayer for the fledgling American states at the First Continental Congress. Rev. Duché's status as a clergyman of the Church of England was viewed as politically wise, an appeal for English loyalists to join the cause. Yet soon the Rev. Duché reversed his revolutionary support and became a loyalist once more. Thus condemned as a traitor by both Britain and America, he was eventually pardoned by both governments, too, and ended his days in Philadelphia, an American citizen.

Daily Readings for the Week of Pentecost 6 (July 4)

S 1 Samuel 4:12-22
James 1:1-18
Matthew 19:23-30

Th 1 Samuel 8:1-22
Acts 6:15-7:16
Luke 22:24-30

M 1 Samuel 5:1-12
Acts 5:12-26
Luke 21:29-36

F 1 Samuel 9:1-14
Acts 7:17-29
Luke 22:31-38

T 1 Samuel 6:1-16
Acts 5:27-42
Luke 21:37-22:13

Sa 1 Samuel 9:15-10:1
Acts 7:30-43
Luke 22:39-51

W 1 Samuel 7:2-17
Acts 6:1-15
Luke 22:14-23

*These readings correspond
to pages 203-237 in Volume
II of For All the Saints.*

Daily Readings for the Week of Pentecost 7 (July 11)

S 1 Samuel 10:1-16
Romans 4:13-25
Matthew 21:23-32

Th 1 Samuel 13:5-18
Acts 8:26-40
Luke 23:13-25

M 1 Samuel 10:17-27
Acts 7:44-8:1a
Luke 22:52-62

F 1 Samuel 13:19-14:15
Acts 9:1-9
Luke 23:26-31

T 1 Samuel 11:1-15
Acts 8:1b-13
Luke 22:63-71

Sa 1 Samuel 14:16-30
Acts 9:10-19a
Luke 23:32-43

W 1 Samuel 12:1-25
Acts 8:14-25
Luke 23:1-12

*These readings correspond
to pages 237-269 in Volume
II of For All the Saints.*

Daily Readings for the Week of Pentecost 8 (July 18)

S	1 Samuel 14:36-45 Romans 5:1-11 Matthew 22:1-14	Th	1 Samuel 16:14-17:11 Acts 10:17-33 Luke 24:36-53
M	1 Samuel 15:1-3, 7-23 Acts 9:19b-31 Luke 23:44-56a	F	1 Samuel 17:17-30 Acts 10:34-48 Mark 1:1-13
T	1 Samuel 15:24-35 Acts 9:32-43 Luke 23:56b-24:11	Sa	1 Samuel 17:31-49 Acts 11:1-18 Mark 1:14-28
W	1 Samuel 16:1-13 Acts 10:1-16 Luke 24:13-35		<i>These readings correspond to pages 270-304 in Volume II of <u>For All the Saints</u>.</i>

Daily Readings for the Week of Pentecost 9 (July 25)

S	1 Samuel 17:50-18:4 Romans 10:4-17 Matthew 23:29-39	Th	1 Samuel 20:24-42 Acts 13:1-12 Mark 2:23-3:6
M	1 Samuel 18:5-30 Acts 11:19-30 Mark 1:29-45	F	1 Samuel 21:1-15 Acts 13:13-25 Mark 3:7-19a
T	1 Samuel 19:1-24 Acts 12:1-17 Mark 2:1-12	Sa	1 Samuel 22:1-23 Acts 13:26-43 Mark 3:19b-35
W	1 Samuel 20:1-23 Acts 12:18-25 Mark 2:13-22		<i>These readings correspond to pages 304-340 in Volume II of <u>For All the Saints</u>.</i>