

**FIRST READING Deuteronomy 15.1–11**

*A reading from Deuteronomy, Chapter 15.*

Every seventh year you shall grant a remission of debts.

And this is the manner of the remission: every creditor shall remit the claim that is held against a neighbour, not exacting it of a neighbour who is a member of the community, because the Lord's remission has been proclaimed.

Of a foreigner you may exact it, but you must remit your claim on whatever any member of your community owes you.

There will, however, be no one in need among you, because the LORD is sure to bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you as a possession to occupy, if only you will obey the LORD your God by diligently observing this entire commandment that I command you today.

When the LORD your God has blessed you, as he promised you, you will lend to many nations, but you will not borrow; you will rule over many nations, but they will not rule over you.

If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbour.

You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be.

Be careful that you do not entertain a mean thought, thinking, "The seventh year, the year of remission, is near," and therefore view your needy neighbour with hostility and give nothing; your neighbour might cry to the LORD against you, and you would incur guilt.

Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake.

Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, "Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbour in your land."

*For the Word of the LORD.*

**SECOND READING**

**Acts 27.[13–32] 33 – end**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 27.*

*[When a moderate south wind began to blow, they thought they could achieve their purpose; so they weighed anchor and began to sail past Crete, close to the shore.*

*But soon a violent wind, called the northeaster, rushed down from Crete.*

*Since the ship was caught and could not be turned head-on into the wind, we gave way to it and were driven.*

*By running under the lee of a small island called Cauda we were scarcely able to get the ship's boat under control.*

*After hoisting it up they took measures to undergird the ship; then, fearing that they would run on the Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and so were driven.*

*We were being pounded by the storm so violently that on the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard, and on the third day with their own hands they threw the ship's tackle overboard.*

*When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest raged, all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned.*

*Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul then stood up among them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and thereby avoided this damage and loss.*

*I urge you now to keep up your courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship.*

*For last night there stood by me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, and he said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before the emperor; and indeed, God has granted safety to all those who are sailing with you.'*

*So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. But we will have to run aground on some island."*

*When the fourteenth night had come, as we were drifting across the sea of Adria, about midnight the sailors suspected that they were nearing land.*

*So they took soundings and found twenty fathoms; a little farther on they took soundings again and found fifteen fathoms.*

*Fearing that we might run on the rocks, they let down four anchors from the stern and prayed for day to come.*

*But when the sailors tried to escape from the ship and had lowered the boat into the*

Common Worship - **Morning Prayer Readings** -Church of England  
4th. Sunday after Trinity (Proper 8) Year C

*sea, on the pretext of putting out anchors from the bow, Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved." Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the boat and set it adrift.]*

Just before daybreak, Paul urged all of them to take some food, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day that you have been in suspense and remaining without food, having eaten nothing.

Therefore I urge you to take some food, for it will help you survive; for none of you will lose a hair from your heads."

After he had said this, he took bread; and giving thanks to God in the presence of all, he broke it and began to eat.

Then all of them were encouraged and took food for themselves.

(We were in all two hundred seventy-six persons in the ship.)

After they had satisfied their hunger, they lightened the ship by throwing the wheat into the sea.

In the morning they did not recognise the land, but they noticed a bay with a beach, on which they planned to run the ship ashore, if they could.

So they cast off the anchors and left them in the sea. At the same time they loosened the ropes that tied the steering-oars; then hoisting the foresail to the wind, they made for the beach.

But striking a reef, they ran the ship aground; the bow stuck and remained immovable, but the stern was being broken up by the force of the waves.

The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, so that none might swim away and escape; but the centurion, wishing to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan.

He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and make for the land, and the rest to follow, some on planks and others on pieces of the ship. And so it was that all were brought safely to land.

*For the Word of the LORD.*