Two Lenten Readings

Leviticus 19:1-2,11-18

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. And you shall not swear falsely by my name,

profaning the name of your God; I am the Lord.

You shall not defraud your neighbour; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a labourer until morning.

You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God;

I am the Lord.

You shall not give an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great;

with justice you shall judge your neighbour.

You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people,

and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbour;

I am the Lord.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin;

you shall correct your neighbour, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take revenge or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself;

I am the Lord.

Isaiah 1:10, 16-20, 27-28

Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom!

Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah!

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes;

cease to do evil.

learn to do good;

seek justice,

rescue the oppressed,

defend the orphan,

plead for the widow.

Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord:

though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow;

though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. Zion shall be redeemed by justice, and those in her who repent, by righteousness.

But rebels and sinners shall be destroyed together,

and those who forsake the Lord shall be consumed.

