

# Readings + 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 22 B + September 1, 2024

## Prayer of the Day

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

## First Reading Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

*Moses said,*

<sup>1</sup>“So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

<sup>6</sup>“You must observe them and perform them, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!’ <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has a deity so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call out? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup>“But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children.”

## Psalmody Psalm 15

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;**

they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They**

**have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

## Second Reading James 1:17-27

<sup>17</sup>Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>In fulfillment of the divine purpose God gave birth to us by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of God’s creatures.

<sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved ones: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, <sup>20</sup>for human anger does not produce God’s righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

<sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

## Holy Gospel Mark 7:1-8, 14-23

*Mark and Matthew both have this story, told in similar language. Luke has a shortened version. But only Mark has verses 2-4, the sidebar explanation of Jewish practice. Note: verses 17-19 aren’t assigned,*

*but we'll read them Sunday as they apply to Jesus' point. For reference, in italics are verses 9-13, also not appointed, but we won't read them Sunday.*

<sup>1</sup> Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus,<sup>2</sup> they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup> (For the Pharisees, and all the Jewish people, do not eat unless they wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders, <sup>4</sup> and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash, and there are also many other traditions that they observe: the washing of cups and pots and bronze kettles and beds.) <sup>5</sup> So the Pharisees and the scribes asked Jesus, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders but eat with defiled hands?" <sup>6</sup> He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; <sup>7</sup> in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' <sup>8</sup> 'You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.'"

<sup>9</sup> Then he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to keep your

tradition! <sup>10</sup> For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.' <sup>11</sup> But you say that if anyone tells father or mother, 'Whatever support you might have had from me is Corban' (that is, an offering to God)— <sup>12</sup> then you no longer permit doing anything for a father or mother, <sup>13</sup> thus making void the word of God through your tradition that you have handed on. And you do many things like this."

<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup> there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. <sup>18</sup> He said to them, "So, are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, <sup>19</sup> since it enters not the heart but the stomach and goes out into the sewer?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) <sup>21</sup> For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: sexual immorality, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup> adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, debauchery, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup> All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."