

Readings + 17th Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 24 B + Sept. 15, 2024

Prayer of the Day

O God, through your suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

First Reading Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
a trained tongue,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning the Lord GOD wakens,
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I did not turn backward.
⁶I gave my back to those who struck me
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the
beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.
⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸the one who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand in court together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Psalmody Psalm 116:1-9

I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and
listened to my supplication,
**for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I
called.**
The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of
the grave came upon me; I came to grief and
sorrow.

Then I called upon the name of the LORD:

“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”

Gracious is the LORD and righteous; our God is
full of compassion.

**The LORD watches over the innocent; I was
brought low, and God saved me.**

Turn again to your rest, O my soul, for the LORD
has dealt well with you.

**For you have rescued my life from death, my
eyes from tears, and my feet from
stumbling;**

I will walk in the presence of the LORD in the
land of the living.

Second Reading James 3:1-12

¹Not many of you should become teachers,
my dear family, for you know that we who teach
will face stricter judgment. ²For all of us make
many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes
in speaking is mature, able to keep the whole
body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into
the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we
guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships:
though they are so large and are driven by strong
winds, yet they are guided by a very small rudder
wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the
tongue is a small part of the body, yet it boasts of
great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a
small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is
placed among our bodily parts as a world of
iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the
cycle of life, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For
every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea
creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the
human species, ⁸but no one can tame the
tongue— a restless evil, full of deadly poison.
⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it
we curse people, made in the likeness of God.
¹⁰From the same mouth comes a blessing and a
curse. My dear family, this ought not to be so. ¹¹
Does a spring pour forth from the same opening
both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree,
my dear ones, yield olives or a grapevine figs? No
more can salt water yield fresh.

Holy Gospel Mark 8:27-38

Mark, Matthew, and Luke all tell this story. They are remarkably similar (though Matthew adds a section where Jesus calls Simon "Peter," the rock, and promises to build the church on him.) Mark and Luke have the last verse, about being ashamed of Jesus and his words, not Matthew.

²⁷ Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸ And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹ Jesus asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹ Then Jesus began to teach them that the Son-of-Humanity must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days

rise again. ³² Jesus said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴ Jesus called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son-of-Humanity will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."