

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST YEAR B

A Reading from Wisdom 1

¹⁶ “The ungodly by their words and deeds summoned death; considering him a friend, they pined away and made a covenant with him, because they are fit to belong to his company. For they reasoned unsoundly, saying to themselves, “Short and sorrowful is our life, and there is no remedy when a life comes to its end, and no one has been known to return from Hades. “Let us lie in wait for the righteous man, because he is inconvenient to us and opposes our actions; he reproaches us for sins against the law and accuses us of sins against our training. He professes to have knowledge of God and calls himself a child of the Lord. He became to us a reproof of our thoughts; the very sight of him is a burden to us, because his manner of life is unlike that of others, and his ways are strange. We are considered by him as something base, and he avoids our ways as unclean; he calls the last end of the righteous happy and boasts that God is his father. Let us see if his words are true and let us test what will happen at the end of his life; for if the righteous man is God’s child, he will help him, and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries. Let us test him with insult and torture, so that we may find out how gentle he is and make trial of his forbearance. Let us condemn him to a shameful death, for, according to what he says, he will be protected.” Thus, they reasoned, but they were led astray, for their wickedness blinded them, and they did not know the secret purposes of God, nor hoped for the wages of holiness, nor discerned the prize for blameless souls.”

- The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 54

- 1 Save me, O God, by your/ Name; *
in your might, defend my/ cause.
- 2 Hear my prayer, O/ God; *
give ear to the words of my/ mouth.
- 3 For the arrogant have risen up against me,
and the ruthless have sought my/ life, *
those who have no regard for/ God.

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4 Behold, God is my/ helper; *
it is the Lord who sustains my/ life.
5 Render evil to those who spy on/ me; *
in your faithfulness, des/troy them.
6 I will offer you a freewill/ sacrifice *
and praise your Name, O Lord, for it is/ good.
7 For you have rescued me from every/ trouble, *
and my eye has seen the ruin of my/ foes.

A Reading from James 3

¹⁶“Where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Adulterers! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you suppose that it is for nothing that the scripture says, “God yearns jealously for the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? But he gives all the more grace; therefore, it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

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The Gospel: **Mark 9:30-37**

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