

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST YEAR B

A Reading from Isaiah 50

⁴ “The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. But the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. Behold, the Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.” - The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 116

1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my
supplication, *
**because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called
u/pon him.**
2 The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold
of/ me; *
I came to grief and/ sorrow.
3 Then I called upon the Name of the/ Lord: *
“O Lord, I pray you, save my/ life.”
4 Gracious is the Lord and/ righteous; *
our God is full of com/passion.
5 The Lord watches over the/ innocent; *
I was brought very low, and he/ helped me.
6 Turn again to your rest, O my /soul, *
for the Lord has treated you /well.
7 For you have rescued my life from /death, *
my eyes from tears, and my feet from /stumbling.
8 I will walk in the presence of the /Lord *
in the land of the /living.

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A Reading from James 2

¹My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

What good is it if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. - The Word of the Lord.

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The Gospel: **Mark 9:14-29**

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