

COLLECTS AND READINGS FOR THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 12 September 2021

Lord God, defend your Church from all false teaching
and give to your people knowledge of your truth,
that we may enjoy eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit
upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:
grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the
gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast
in faith and active in service;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **AMEN**

Post Communion prayer

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy;
and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall,
keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful,
and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

A reading from the book of Proverbs

Wisdom's rebuke chapter 1 verses 22-33

²⁰ Out in the open wisdom calls aloud,
she raises her voice in the public square;
²¹ on top of the wall she cries out, at the city gate she makes her speech:
²² "How long will you who are simple love your simple ways?
How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge?
²³ Repent at my rebuke! Then I will pour out my thoughts to you,
I will make known to you my teachings.
²⁴ But since you refuse to listen when I call
and no one pays attention when I stretch out my hand,
²⁵ since you disregard all my advice and do not accept my rebuke,
²⁶ I in turn will laugh when disaster strikes you;
I will mock when calamity overtakes you—

²⁷ when calamity overtakes you like a storm,
when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind,
when distress and trouble overwhelm you.
²⁸ "Then they will call to me but I will not answer;
they will look for me but will not find me,
²⁹ since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the LORD.
³⁰ Since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke,
³¹ they will eat the fruit of their ways
and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.
³² For the waywardness of the simple will kill them,
and the complacency of fools will destroy them;
³³ but whoever listens to me will live in safety
and be at ease, without fear of harm."

A reading from the letter of James chapter 3 verses 1-12 Taming the tongue

³ Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because
you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. ²We all
stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is
perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

³ When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we
can turn the whole animal. ⁴Or take ships as an example. Although they
are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very
small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.

⁵ Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great
boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶The
tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It
corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is
itself set on fire by hell.

⁷ All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed
and have been tamed by mankind, ⁸but no human being can tame the
tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

⁹ With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse
human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰Out of the
same mouth come praise and cursing.

My brothers and sisters, this should not be. ¹¹Can both fresh water and
salt water flow from the same spring? ¹²My brothers and sisters, can a fig
tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring
produce fresh water.

**Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Mark**

chapter 8 verses 27-38

Glory to you, O Lord

Peter declares that Jesus is the Messiah

²⁷ Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, *“Who do people say I am?”*

²⁸ They replied, *“Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”*

²⁹ *“But what about you?”* he asked. *“Who do you say I am?”*

Peter answered, *“You are the Messiah.”*

³⁰ Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

Jesus predicts His death

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. *“Get behind me, Satan!”* he said. *“You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”*

The Way of the Cross

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: *“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life^[a] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? ³⁷ Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

THE SEASON OF CREATION

A prayer for our earth

All powerful God, you are present in the universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with your peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

AMEN

***‘A prayer for our earth’ was published in Pope Francis’ encyclical, Laudato Si’ 2015
It is for all who believe in God who is the all-powerful Creator.***