

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost: September 19, 2021

The Collect: Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

Proverbs 31:10-31

A capable wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. She is like the ships of the merchant, she brings her food from far away. She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household and tasks for her servant-girls. She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. She girds herself with strength, and makes her arms strong. She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy. She is not afraid for her household when it snows, for all her household are clothed in crimson. She makes herself coverings; her clothing is fine linen and purple. Her husband is known in the city gates, taking his seat among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them; she supplies the merchant with sashes. Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her happy; her husband too, and he praises her: "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.

Psalm 1

- ¹ Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;
² but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.
³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.
⁴ The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
⁶ for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

The Second Lesson

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For 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. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

The Gospel

Mark 9:30-37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

The Prayers of the People:

We look to you, O God, to teach us how to be whom you created us to be. Shine your light on the path ahead. Catch us when we take a wrong turn, and by your Spirit, move us in the right direction. We are your children; **People: Teach us how to live, O God.**

We pray for Joseph, our President, the Courts and Congress, Eric, our governor, and our mayors. We yearn for peace but are constantly at war with ourselves, our neighbors, and the nations throughout the world. We are your children; **People: Teach us how to make peace, O God.**

We, your church, are easily distracted by things that don't matter. Turn our eyes to you, open our hearts to you; deepen our love of you. Bless our bishops, priests, and deacons. We pray for Michael, our presiding bishop; Jennifer, our bishop, Mauricio, bishop of Brasilia, Debbie, our priest; Becky, the clergy and people of St. Matthews, Indianapolis, the Church of the Province of Uganda, the diocese of Haiti; and for St. Andre's in Mithon. May we teach each other how to walk in love. We are your children;

People: Teach us how to serve you, O God.

Our bodies ache, our spirits are restless, and our minds grow weary with constant worry. Lead us to a place of wholeness and make each of us agents of healing in this world. We pray for those who have asked for our prayers today. We are your children;

People: Teach us how to trust in your healing embrace, O God.

When a dear one dies, we ask that you receive them into your eternal kingdom as promised. Assure those who grieve that you will not leave them desolate in their sorrow but hold their loved one close to your heart. We are your children; **People: Teach us the way home to you.**