

# Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

08 September 2024

## Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,  
increase our faith, hope, and love,  
and, that we may receive all you promise,  
make us love what you command;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## 1st Reading

### **Proverbs 22.1-2, 22.8-9, 22.22-23**

- <sup>1</sup> A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,  
and favour is better than silver or gold.
- <sup>2</sup> The rich and the poor have this in common:  
the Lord is the maker of them all.
- <sup>8</sup> Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,  
and the rod of anger will fail.
- <sup>9</sup> Those who are generous are blessed,  
for they share their bread with the poor.
- <sup>22</sup> Do not rob the poor because they are poor,  
or crush the afflicted at the gate;
- <sup>23</sup> for the Lord pleads their cause  
and despoils of life those who despoil them.

## Psalm

### **Psalm 146**

- <sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul:  
while I live I will praise the Lord;

- 2 While I have any being:  
I will sing praises to my God.
- 3 Put not your trust in princes:  
nor in flesh and blood, which cannot save.
- 4 For when their breath goes from them,  
they return again to the earth:  
and on that day all their thoughts perish.
- 5 Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob:  
whose hope is in the Lord their God,
- 6 The God who made heaven and earth:  
the sea, and all that is in them,
- 7 Who keeps faith for ever:  
who deals justice to those that are oppressed.
- 8 The Lord gives food to the hungry:  
and sets the captives free.
- 9 The Lord gives sight to the blind:  
the Lord lifts up those that are bowed down.
- 10 The Lord loves the righteous:  
the Lord cares for the stranger in the land.
- 11 He upholds the widow and the fatherless:  
as for the way of the wicked, he turns it upside down.
- 12 The Lord shall be king for ever:  
your God, O Zion, shall reign through all generations.  
Praise the Lord.

## 2nd Reading

### James 2.1-10, 2.14-17

1 My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? 2 For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, 3 and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', 4 have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? 5 Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those

who love him? <sup>6</sup> But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup> Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? <sup>8</sup> You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' <sup>9</sup> But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup> For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. <sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup> So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

## **Gospel**

### **Mark 7.24-37**

<sup>24</sup> From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, <sup>25</sup> but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup> Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup> He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' <sup>28</sup> But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' <sup>29</sup> Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' <sup>30</sup> So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. <sup>31</sup> Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup> They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup> He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup> Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be

opened.' <sup>35</sup> And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup> Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup> They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'