

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

22 September 2024

Collect

God and Father of all,
you have taught us through your Son that the last shall be first,
and have made a little child the measure of your kingdom:
give us the wisdom from above,
so that we may understand that in your sight
the one who serves is the greatest of all.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Proverbs 31.10-31

- ¹⁰ A capable wife who can find?
She is far more precious than jewels.
- ¹¹ The heart of her husband trusts in her,
and he will have no lack of gain.
- ¹² She does him good, and not harm,
all the days of her life.
- ¹³ She seeks wool and flax,
and works with willing hands.
- ¹⁴ She is like the ships of the merchant,
she brings her food from far away.
- ¹⁵ She rises while it is still night
and provides food for her household
and tasks for her servant-girls.
- ¹⁶ She considers a field and buys it;
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
- ¹⁷ She girds herself with strength,
and makes her arms strong.
- ¹⁸ She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.
Her lamp does not go out at night.

- 19 She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her hands hold the spindle.
- 20 She opens her hand to the poor,
and reaches out her hands to the needy.
- 21 She is not afraid for her household when it snows,
for all her household are clothed in crimson.
- 22 She makes herself coverings;
her clothing is fine linen and purple.
- 23 Her husband is known in the city gates,
taking his seat among the elders of the land.
- 24 She makes linen garments and sells them;
she supplies the merchant with sashes.
- 25 Strength and dignity are her clothing,
and she laughs at the time to come.
- 26 She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
- 27 She looks well to the ways of her household,
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
- 28 Her children rise up and call her happy;
her husband too, and he praises her:
- 29 'Many women have done excellently,
but you surpass them all.'
- 30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
- 31 Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,
and let her works praise her in the city gates.

Psalm

Psalm 109

- 1** My God, whom I praise, do not remain silent,
2 for people who are wicked and deceitful have opened their
mouths against me; they have spoken against me with lying
tongues.
- 3** With words of hatred they surround me; they attack me without
cause.

- 4** In return for my friendship they accuse me, but I am a man of prayer.
- 5** They repay me evil for good, and hatred for my friendship.
- 6** Appoint someone evil to oppose my enemy; let an accuser stand at his right hand.
- 7** When he is tried, let him be found guilty, and may his prayers condemn him.
- 8** May his days be few; may another take his place of leadership.
- 9** May his children be fatherless and his wife a widow.
- 10** May his children be wandering beggars; may they be driven from their ruined homes.
- 11** May a creditor seize all he has; may strangers plunder the fruits of his labor.
- 12** May no one extend kindness to him or take pity on his fatherless children.
- 13** May his descendants be cut off, their names blotted out from the next generation.
- 14** May the iniquity of his fathers be remembered before the LORD; may the sin of his mother never be blotted out.
- 15** May their sins always remain before the LORD, that he may blot out their name from the earth.
- 16** For he never thought of doing a kindness, but hounded to death the poor and the needy and the brokenhearted.
- 17** He loved to pronounce a curse— may it come back on him. He found no pleasure in blessing— may it be far from him.
- 18** He wore cursing as his garment; it entered into his body like water, into his bones like oil.
- 19** May it be like a cloak wrapped about him, like a belt tied forever around him.
- 20** May this be the LORD's payment to my accusers, to those who speak evil of me.
- 21** But you, Sovereign LORD, help me for your name's sake; out of the goodness of your love, deliver me.
- 22** For I am poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me.
- 23** I fade away like an evening shadow; I am shaken off like a locust.
- 24** My knees give way from fasting; my body is thin and gaunt.

25 I am an object of scorn to my accusers; when they see me, they shake their heads.

26 Help me, LORD my God; save me according to your unfailing love.

27 Let them know that it is your hand, that you, LORD, have done it.

28 While they curse, may you bless; may those who attack me be put to shame, but may your servant rejoice.

29 May my accusers be clothed with disgrace and wrapped in shame as in a cloak.

30 With my mouth I will greatly extol the LORD; in the great throng of worshipers I will praise him.

31 For he stands at the right hand of the needy, to save their lives from those who would condemn them.

2nd Reading

James 3.1-12

¹ Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ² For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³ If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴ Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵ So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸ but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish

water? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Gospel

Mark 9.30-37

³⁰ They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹ 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.' ³² But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. ³³ Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' ³⁴ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' ³⁶ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'