



SUNDAY, AUGUST 28–SEPTEMBER 3

TIME AFTER PENTECOST — LECTIONARY 22

Year B, Complementary Series

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

A reading from Deuteronomy.

¹“So now, Israel,
give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe,
so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD,
the God of your ancestors, is giving you.

²You must neither add anything to what I command you
nor take away anything from it,
but keep the commandments of the LORD your God
with which I am charging you.

⁶“You must observe them and perform them,
for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples,
who, when they hear all these statutes, will say,
‘Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!’

⁷For what other great nation has a deity so near to it
as the LORD our God is whenever we call out?

⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances
as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹“But take care and watch yourselves closely,
so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen
nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life;
make them known to your children and your children’s children.”

Word of God, word of life. *or* The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 15

SECOND READING: James 1:17-27

A reading from James.

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift,
is from above, coming down from the Father of lights,
with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

¹⁸In fulfillment of the divine purpose
God gave birth to us by the word of truth,
so that we would become a kind of first fruits of God's creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved ones:
let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger,
²⁰for human anger does not produce God's righteousness.
²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness,
and welcome with meekness the implanted word
that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word
and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.
²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers,
they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror;
²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away,
immediately forget what they were like.
²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty,
and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—
they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious
and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts,
their religion is worthless.
²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this:
to care for orphans and widows in their distress
and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Word of God, word of life. *or* The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The holy gospel according to Mark.

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus,
²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them.
³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jewish people, do not eat unless they wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders,
⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash, and there are also many other traditions that they observe: the washing of cups and pots and bronze kettles and beds.)
⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked Jesus,
“Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders but eat with defiled hands?”
⁶He said to them,
“Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,
‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’
⁸“You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then Jesus called the crowd again and said to them,
“Listen to me, all of you, and understand:
¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.
²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, debauchery, envy, slander, pride, folly.
²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

The gospel of the Lord.