



# SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11–17

TIME AFTER PENTECOST — LECTIONARY 24

*Year B, Complementary Series*

## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a**

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>4</sup>The Lord GOD has given me  
a trained tongue,

that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning the Lord GOD wakens,  
wakens my ear

to listen as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear,

and I was not rebellious;

I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me

and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face

from insult and spitting.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord GOD helps me;

therefore I have not been disgraced;

therefore I have set my face like flint,

and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

<sup>8</sup>the one who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand in court together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

<sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me;

who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, word of life.

*or*

The word of the Lord.

## **PSALMODY: Psalm 116:1-9**

## SECOND READING: James 3:1-12

A reading from James.

<sup>1</sup>Not many of you should become teachers, my dear family,  
for you know that we who teach will face stricter judgment.

<sup>2</sup>For all of us make many mistakes.

Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is mature,  
able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle.

<sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us,  
we guide their whole bodies.

<sup>4</sup>Or look at ships: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds,  
yet they are guided by a very small rudder  
wherever the will of the pilot directs.

<sup>5</sup>So also the tongue is a small part of the body,  
yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!

<sup>6</sup>And the tongue is a fire.

The tongue is placed among our bodily parts as a world of iniquity;  
it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of life,  
and is itself set on fire by hell.

<sup>7</sup>For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature,  
can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species,

<sup>8</sup>but no one can tame the tongue—  
a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

<sup>9</sup>With it we bless the Lord and Father,  
and with it we curse people, made in the likeness of God.

<sup>10</sup>From the same mouth comes a blessing and a curse.

My dear family, this ought not to be so.

<sup>11</sup>Does a spring pour forth from the same opening  
both fresh and brackish water?

<sup>12</sup>Can a fig tree, my dear ones, yield olives or a grapevine figs?  
No more can salt water yield fresh.

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

## **GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-38**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

<sup>27</sup>Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi,  
and on the way he asked his disciples,  
“Who do people say that I am?”

<sup>28</sup>And they answered him,  
“John the Baptist; and others, Elijah;  
and still others, one of the prophets.”

<sup>29</sup>Jesus asked them, “But who do you say that I am?”  
Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.”

<sup>30</sup>And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son-of-Man must undergo great suffering  
and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes  
and be killed and after three days rise again.

<sup>32</sup>Jesus said all this quite openly.

And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

<sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter and said,  
“Get behind me, Satan!

For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>34</sup>Jesus called the crowd with his disciples and said to them,  
“If any wish to come after me,  
let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

<sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it,  
and those who lose their life for my sake,  
and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

<sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

<sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?

<sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words  
in this adulterous and sinful generation,  
of them the Son-of-Man will also be ashamed  
when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The gospel of the Lord.