



# SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18–24

TIME AFTER PENTECOST — LECTIONARY 25

*Year B, Complementary Series*

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 11:18-20**

**OR Wisdom 1:16—2:1, 12-22, following**

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>18</sup>It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;  
then you showed me their deeds.

<sup>19</sup>But I was like a gentle lamb  
led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me  
that they devised schemes, saying,

“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit;  
let us cut him off from the land of the living,  
so that his name will no longer be remembered!”

<sup>20</sup>But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,  
who try the heart and the mind,  
let me see your retribution upon them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.

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

**OR: Wisdom 1:16—2:1, 12-22**

A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon.

<sup>16</sup>The ungodly by their words and deeds summoned death;  
considering it a friend, they pined away  
and made a covenant with it,  
because they are fit to belong to its company.

<sup>2:1</sup>For they reasoned unsoundly, saying to themselves,  
“Short and sorrowful is our life,  
and there is no remedy when a life comes to its end,  
and no one has been known to return from Hades.

<sup>12</sup>“Let us lie in wait for the one who is righteous,  
because he is inconvenient to us and opposes our actions;  
he reproaches us for sins against the law  
and accuses us of sins against our training.

<sup>13</sup>The righteous one professes to have knowledge of God  
and calls himself a child of the Lord.

<sup>14</sup>He became to us a reproof of our thoughts;

<sup>15</sup>the very sight of him is a burden to us,  
because his manner of life is unlike that of others,  
and his ways are strange.

<sup>16</sup>We are considered by him as something base,  
and he avoids our ways as unclean;  
he calls the last end of the righteous happy  
and boasts that God is his father.

<sup>17</sup>Let us see if his words are true,  
and let us test what will happen at the end of his life,  
<sup>18</sup>for if the righteous man is God’s child, God will help him  
and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries.

<sup>19</sup>Let us test him with insult and torture,  
so that we may find out how reasonable he is  
and make trial of his forbearance.

<sup>20</sup>Let us condemn him to a shameful death,  
for, according to what he says, he will be protected.”

<sup>21</sup>Thus they reasoned, but they were led astray,  
for their wickedness blinded them,

<sup>22</sup>and they did not know the secret purposes of God,  
nor hoped for the wages of holiness,  
nor discerned the prize for blameless souls.

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

**PSALMODY: Psalm 54**

**SECOND READING: James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a**

A reading from James.

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and knowledgeable among you?

Show by your good life

that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom.

<sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts,  
do not be arrogant and lie about the truth.

<sup>15</sup>This is not wisdom that comes down from above  
but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish.

<sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition,  
there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind.

<sup>17</sup>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.

<sup>18</sup>And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

<sup>4:1</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from?

Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you?

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive because you ask wrongly,  
in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

<sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God.

Resist the devil, and the devil will flee from you.

<sup>8a</sup>Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.

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

## **GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-37**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

<sup>30</sup> Jesus and the disciples went on and passed through Galilee.

He did not want anyone to know it,

<sup>31</sup> 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.”

<sup>32</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup> Then they came to Capernaum,

and when Jesus was in the house he asked them,

“What were you arguing about on the way?”

<sup>34</sup> But they were silent,

for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.

<sup>35</sup> He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them,

“Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.”

<sup>36</sup> Then he took a little child and put it among them,

and taking it in his arms he said to them,

<sup>37</sup> “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me,

and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

The gospel of the Lord.