

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity Week 24 Year B

Collect

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be steadfast in faith and active in service; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 50.4-9a

The servant of the LORD said:

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens –
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backwards.

⁶I 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.

⁷The 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;

⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

⁹It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

All of them will wear out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.

NEW TESTAMENT READING James 3.1-12

¹Not many of you should become teachers,
my brothers and sisters, for you know that
we who teach will be judged with greater
strictness. ²For 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. ³If we put bits
into the mouths of horses to make them
obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or
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. ⁵So also the
tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of
great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small
fire! ⁶And 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. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of
reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and
has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but
no one can tame the tongue – a restless evil,
full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the
Lord and Father, and with it we curse those
who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From
the same mouth come blessing and cursing.
My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be
so. ¹¹Does 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.

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord;
no one can come to the Father except through me.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

Mark 8.27-38

Hear the holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to S. Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁷ 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?'

²⁸ And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.'

²⁹ Jesus asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?'

Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.'

³⁰ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. ³¹ 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.

³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he

rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ 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. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ 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.'

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy;
and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall,
keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful,
and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**