

Sentence:

Whoever sows justice reaps peace; the generous will themselves be blessed, for the rich and poor have this in common; the Lord is the Creator of them all.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Oikonomos: A Just Home For All People

Year B

5th September 2021

Green

Prayer of the Day:

Creator God,
we thank you for this world that you created, this earth, this place,
this house for all life,
We have become blind, deaf and mute
to the many injustices that shake our home.
O Lord, unstop our ears to hear, wipe the scales from our eyes to
see, and open our mouths, to advocate against injustice;
Through your Son, and the life-giving Spirit.

Amen.

A reading from the book of Proverbs

Chapter 22: beginning at verse 1.

- 1 A good name is more desirable than great riches;
to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.
- 2 Rich and poor have this in common:
The Lord is the Maker of them all.
- 8 Whoever sows injustice reaps calamity,
and the rod they wield in fury will be broken.
- 9 The generous will themselves be blessed,
for they share their food with the poor.
- 22 Do not exploit the poor because they are poor
and do not crush the needy in court,
- 23 for the Lord will take up their case
and will exact life for life.

[NRSV Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23]

Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God

Psalm 125 [ABPA p 361-362]

- 1 Those who put their trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion:
which cannot be shaken, but endures for ever.
- 2 As the mountains stand about Jerusalem, so stands the Lord about his people:
from this time forward for evermore.
- 3 For the sceptre of wickedness shall have no sway over the land apportioned to the righteous:
lest the righteous set their hands to do evil.
- 4 Do good, O Lord, to those who are good:
to those who are upright in heart.
- 5 As for those who turn aside to crooked ways, let the Lord lead them away with the evildoers:
and in Israel let there be peace.

*A reading from the Letter of James,
Chapter 2 beginning at Verse 1*

¹ My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ² For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³ and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court?

⁷ Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸ You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹ But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷ So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

[NRSV James 2:1-10, 14-17]

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark,
Chapter 7 beginning at verse 24.*

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴ From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.

²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸ But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹ Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴ Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷ They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

[NRSV Mark 7: 24-37]

This is the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**