

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark,  
Chapter 8 beginning at verse 27*

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<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> He 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> He 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, he 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> 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. <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."

[NRSV Mark 8: 27-38]

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

*Sentence:*

For what will it profit to exploit the whole world and yet forfeit life? What can we give in return for life?

# Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Oikologie: Wisdom From Our Home Planet

Year B

12<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Green

*Prayer of the Day:*

Ever creating God,  
in the company of Wisdom you spoke,  
and all creation came into being,  
yet through our waywardness and our complacency  
we fail in our care of your work.  
Grant us O Lord, wisdom to discern the cry of this world  
and act in empathy and compassion  
through our faith in your Son, the Word, and Saviour.

**Amen.**

*A reading from the book of Proverbs*

*Chapter 1: beginning at verse 20.*

<sup>20</sup> Wisdom cries out in the street;  
in the squares she raises her voice.  
<sup>21</sup> At the busiest corner she cries out;  
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:  
<sup>22</sup> "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?"

How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate  
knowledge?  
<sup>23</sup> Give heed to my reproof;

I will pour out my thoughts to you;  
I will make my words known to you.  
<sup>24</sup> Because I have called and you refused,  
have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,  
<sup>25</sup> and because you have ignored all my counsel  
and would have none of my reproof,

<sup>26</sup> I also will laugh at your calamity;  
I will mock when panic strikes you,  
<sup>27</sup> when panic strikes you like a storm, and your calamity comes  
like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you.

28 Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;  
they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.  
29 Because they hated knowledge  
and did not choose the fear of the Lord,  
30 would have none of my counsel,  
and despised all my reproof,  
31 therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way  
and be sated with their own devices.  
32 For waywardness kills the simple,  
and the complacency of fools destroys them;  
33 but those who listen to me will be secure  
and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.”

[NRSV Proverbs 1:20-33]

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

Psalm 19 [ABPA p 239-240]

1 The heavens declare the glory of God:  
**and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.**  
2 One day tells it to another:  
**and night to night communicates knowledge.**  
3 There is no speech, or language:  
**nor are their voice is not heard.**  
4 Yet their sound has gone out through all the world,  
**and their words to the ends of the earth.**  
5 There he has pitched a tent for the sun:  
**which comes out as a bridegroom from his chamber,  
and rejoices like a strong man runs to run his course.**  
6 Its rising is at one end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to their farthest bound:  
**and nothing is hidden from its heat.**  
7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;  
**the command of the Lord is true, and makes wise the simple.**  
8 The precepts of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart:  
**the commandment of the Lord is pure, and gives light to the eyes.**  
9 The fear of the Lord is clean, and endures for ever:  
**the judgements of the Lord are unchanging, true and righteous every one.**

10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;  
**sweeter also than honey that drips from the comb.**  
11 Moreover by them is your servant taught:  
**in keeping them there is great reward.**  
12 Who can know their unwitting sins?:  
**O cleanse me from my secret faults.**  
13 Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins, lest they get the  
mastery over me:  
**so I shall be clean, and innocent of great offence.**  
14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be  
acceptable in your sight:  
**O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

*A reading from the Letter of James,  
Chapter 3 beginning at Verse 1*

<sup>1</sup> Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup> For 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. <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 that it takes strong winds to drive them, 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 member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! <sup>6</sup> And 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. <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 those who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup> From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup> Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water?

[NRSV James 3: 1-12]

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