

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost Sunday, October 14, 2018

The Collect: Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Track 1 Old Testament: Job 23:1-9, 16-17 read from the Revised Standard Version Bible

Then Job answered: "Today also my complaint is bitter, his hand is heavy in spite of my groaning. Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his seat! I would lay my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments. I would learn what he would answer me, and understand what he would say to me. Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power? No; he would give heed to me. There an upright man could reason with him, and I should be acquitted for ever by my judge.

"Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him; on the left hand I seek him, but I cannot behold him; I turn to the right hand, but I cannot see him.

God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me; for I am hemmed in by darkness, and thick darkness covers my face.

The Word of the Lord

Track 2 Old Testament: Amos 5:6-7,10-15 read from the Revised Standard Version Bible

Seek the Lord and live, lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and it devour, with none to quench it for Bethel, O you who turn justice to wormwood, and cast down righteousness to the earth!

They hate him who reproves in the gate, and they abhor him who speaks the truth. Therefore because you trample upon the poor and take from him exactions of wheat, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not dwell in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. For I know how many are your transgressions, and how

great are your sins—you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and turn aside the needy in the gate. Therefore he who is prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time.

Seek good, and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, as you have said. Hate evil, and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

The Word of the Lord

Track 1 Psalm 22:1-15 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? * and are so far from my cry and from the words of my distress?

2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; * by night as well, but I find no rest.

3 Yet you are the Holy One, * enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

4 Our forefathers put their trust in you; * they trusted, and you delivered them.

5 They cried out to you and were delivered; * they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

6 But as for me, I am a worm and no man, * scorned by all and despised by the people.

7 All who see me laugh me to scorn; * they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,

8 "He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him; * let him rescue him, if he delights in him."

9 Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, * and kept me safe upon my mother's breast.

10 I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; * you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.

11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near, * and there is none to help.

12 Many young bulls encircle me; * strong bulls of Bashan surround me.

13 They open wide their jaws at me, * like a ravening and a roaring lion.

14 I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; * my heart within my breast is melting wax.

15 My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; * and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.

Track 2: Psalm 90:12-17 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer

12 So teach us to number our days * that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

13 Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry? * be gracious to your servants.

14 Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning; * so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

15 Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us * and the years in which we suffered adversity.

16 Show your servants your works * and your splendor to their children.

17 May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; * prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.

Epistle: Hebrews 4:12-16 read from The God's Word Bible

God's word is living and active. It is sharper than any two-edged sword and cuts as deep as the place where soul and spirit meet, the place where joints and marrow meet. God's word judges a person's thoughts and intentions. No creature can hide from God. Everything is uncovered and exposed for him to see. We must answer to him.

We need to hold on to our declaration of faith: We have a superior chief priest who has gone through the heavens. That person is Jesus, the Son of God. We have a chief priest who is able to sympathize with our weaknesses. He was tempted in every way that we are, but he didn't sin. So we can go confidently to the throne of God's kindness to receive mercy and find kindness, which will help us at the right time.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel: Mark 10:17-31 read from The Holman Christian Standard Bible

As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"Why do you call Me good?" Jesus asked him. "No one is good but One—God. You know the commandments:

Do not murder;
do not commit adultery;
do not steal;
do not bear false witness;
do not defraud;
honor your father and mother.”

He said to Him, “Teacher, I have kept all these from my youth.”

Then, looking at him, Jesus loved him and said to him, “You lack one thing: Go, sell all you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me.”

But he was stunned at this demand, and he went away grieving, because he had many possessions.

Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, “How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” But the disciples were astonished at His words. Again Jesus said to them, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.”

So they were even more astonished, saying to one another, “Then who can be saved?”

Looking at them, Jesus said, “With men it is impossible, but not with God, because all things are possible with God.”

Peter began to tell Him, “Look, we have left everything and followed You.”

“I assure you,” Jesus said, “there is no one who has left house, brothers or sisters, mother or father, children, or fields because of Me and the gospel, who will not receive 100 times more, now at this time—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and eternal life in the age to come. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Closing Prayer: On October 15th we remember Teresa of Avila, Nun. Read from *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*.

Teresa was one of two women declared a “Doctor of the Church” in 1970 by the Roman Catholic Church, primarily because of her two mystical contemplative works, *The Way of Perfection* and *Interior Castle*. She was a close spiritual and personal friend of St. John of the Cross.

Teresa was born near Avila, Spain. Even in her childhood, she took much pleasure in the study of saints' lives, and she used to delight in spending times of contemplation, repeating over and over, “For ever, for ever, for ever, for ever, they shall see God”

In her autobiography, Teresa tells that, following her mother's death, she became quite worldly. To offset this, her father placed her in an Augustinian convent to be educated, but serious illness ended her studies. During convalescence, she determined to enter the religious life; and, though opposed by her father, she became a postulant at a Carmelite convent. Again, illness forced her to return home. After three years, she returned to the convent.

The easygoing life of the “mitigated” Carmelite rule distracted her from her customary prayer life, to which she returned. Taking recourse in two great penitents, Augustine of Hippo and Mary Magdalene, she became increasingly meditative. She began to receive visions – whether from God or the Devil she could not know – and struggled to reject them.

Teresa set out to establish a reformed Carmelite order of the “discalced” religious, who wore sandals or went barefoot. Despite many setbacks, she traveled for 25 years through Spain. Energetic, practical, efficient, as well as being a mystic and ascetic, she established 17 convents of Reformed Carmelites. Even imprisonment did not deter her.

Despite the demands of her administrative and missionary work, Teresa found time to write the numerous letters that give us rare insights into her personality and concerns. She shows us a practical organizer, a writer of native genius, a warm devoted friend, and, above all, a

lover of and the beloved of God.

Her death in 1582, followed two years of illness, was peaceful. Her last sight was the Sacrament brought for her comfort; here last words, "O my Lord! Now is the time that we may see each other."

Let us pray: O God, who by thy Holy Spirit didst move Teresa of Avila to manifest to thy Church the way of perfection: Grant us, we beseech thee, to be nourished by her teaching, and enkindle within us a lively and unquenchable longing for true holiness; through Jesus Christ, the joy of loving hearts, who with thee and the same Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**