

## **Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Sept. 5**

**The Collect:** Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; 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: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 read from the New Century Version Bible**

Being respected is more important than having great riches.

1 To be well thought of is better than silver or gold.

2 The rich and the poor are alike

in that the Lord made them all.

8 Those who plan evil will receive trouble.

Their cruel anger will come to an end.

9 Generous people will be blessed,

because they share their food with the poor.

22 Do not abuse poor people because they are poor,

and do not take away the rights of the needy in court.

23 The Lord will defend them in court

and will take the life of those who take away their rights.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

### **Track 1 Psalm 125 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer**

1 Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, \*

which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.

2 The hills stand about Jerusalem; \*

so does the Lord stand round about his people,

from this time forth for evermore.

3 The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land allotted to the just, \*  
so that the just shall not put their hands to evil.

4 Show your goodness, O Lord, to those who are good \*  
and to those who are true of heart.

5 As for those who turn aside to crooked ways,  
the Lord will lead them away with the evildoers; \*  
but peace be upon Israel.

### **Track 2 Old Testament: Isaiah 35:4-7a read from the New Century Version Bible**

4 Say to people who are frightened,  
“Be strong. Don’t be afraid.

Look, your God will come,  
and he will punish your enemies.

He will make them pay for the wrongs they did,  
but he will save you.”

5 Then the blind people will see again,  
and the deaf will hear.

6 Crippled people will jump like deer,  
and those who can’t talk now will shout with joy.

Water will flow in the desert,  
and streams will flow in the dry land.

7 The burning desert will have pools of water,  
and the dry ground will have springs.

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### **Track 2 Psalm 146 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer**

1 Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, O my soul! \*

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

2 Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, \*

for there is no help in them.

3 When they breathe their last, they return to earth, \*

and in that day their thoughts perish.

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! \*

whose hope is in the Lord their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \*

who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \*

and food to those who hunger.

7 The Lord sets the prisoners free;

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; \*

the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The Lord loves the righteous;

the Lord cares for the stranger; \*

he sustains the orphan and widow,

but frustrates the way of the wicked.

9 The Lord shall reign for ever, \*

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.

Hallelujah!

### **The Epistle: James 2:1-17 read from the New International Version Bible**

2 My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. 2 Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. 3 If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," 4 have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

5 Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? 7 Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. 9 But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. 10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. 11 For he who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

12 Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, 13 because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

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### **The Gospel: Mark 7:24-37 read from the New Living Translation**

24 Then Jesus left Galilee and went north to the region of Tyre. He didn't want anyone to know which house he was staying in, but he couldn't keep it a secret. 25 Right away a woman who had heard about him came and fell at his feet. Her little girl was possessed by an evil spirit, 26 and she begged him to cast out the demon from her daughter.

Since she was a Gentile, born in Syrian Phoenicia, 27 Jesus told her, "First I should feed

the children—my own family, the Jews. It isn't right to take food from the children and throw it to the dogs."

28 She replied, "That's true, Lord, but even the dogs under the table are allowed to eat the scraps from the children's plates."

29 "Good answer!" he said. "Now go home, for the demon has left your daughter." 30 And when she arrived home, she found her little girl lying quietly in bed, and the demon was gone.

31 Jesus left Tyre and went up to Sidon before going back to the Sea of Galilee and the region of the Ten Towns. 32 A deaf man with a speech impediment was brought to him, and the people begged Jesus to lay his hands on the man to heal him.

33 Jesus led him away from the crowd so they could be alone. He put his fingers into the man's ears. Then, spitting on his own fingers, he touched the man's tongue. 34 Looking up to heaven, he sighed and said, "Ephphatha," which means, "Be opened!" 35 Instantly the man could hear perfectly, and his tongue was freed so he could speak plainly!

36 Jesus told the crowd not to tell anyone, but the more he told them not to, the more they spread the news. 37 They were completely amazed and said again and again, "Everything he does is wonderful. He even makes the deaf to hear and gives speech to those who cannot speak."

## **The Gospel of the Lord**

**Closing Prayer: On September 11 we celebrate the life of Harry Thacker Burleigh, Composer. Read from *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*.**

Henry (Harry) Thacker Burleigh was an American singer, composer, and arranger who did more than anyone else up to his time to make available the riches of the American Negro spiritual to vast audiences.

Burleigh was born in Erie, Pennsylvania, in 1866. His grandfather, Hamilton Waters, had been a slave who had been blinded by a savage beating but passed along old songs by singing them to his grandson, Harry. Burleigh had a natural voice for singing and sang when and where he could. In 1892, with some difficulty, he won admission to the National Conservatory of Music, where he studied voice and music theory. Although never directly a pupil of Antonin Dvořak, the director of the Conservatory at the time, he worked for Dvořak copying orchestral parts. It was Burleigh who suggested to Dvořak some of the themes that would become Dvorak's Symphony No. 9: From the New World.

To support himself while at Conservatory, Burleigh became the baritone soloist at St. George's Episcopal Church in New York City. The presence of a black man in the choir initially caused dissension, but it died down when J. Pierpont Morgan, a member of the parish, took a clear stand on the matter. Even after gaining other employment and becoming a successful composer, Burleigh continued to sing in the choir at St. George's for many years and became a beloved part of the congregation.

Burleigh composed original music, mostly for voice, and was a wellrespected arranger and music editor in New York. His art songs were musical settings of the poetry of such great African American poets as Langston Hughes and James Weldon Johnson, among others. His greatest achievement, and that for which he will always be celebrated, was recovering and arranging many Negro spirituals for solo voice and piano so that they could be widely heard on the concert stage. Various choral versions of the spirituals had been well known in the black churches, but it was Burleigh's arrangements that made this distinctively American music available to the masses.

Burleigh died on September 12, 1949.

**Let us pray:** God, our strong deliverer: We bless your Name for the grace given to Harry Thacker Burleigh, who lifted up in song the struggles of your people. Let that Spirit of love which spurred him draw us and your whole Church to raise our distinct voices into one great harmony of praise; through the same Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**