

## Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 12

**The Collect:** O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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 1:20-33 read from the New Revised Standard Version Bible

20 Wisdom cries out in the street;

in the squares she raises her voice.

21 At the busiest corner she cries out;

at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

22 "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?

How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing

and fools hate knowledge?

23 Give heed to my reproof;

I will pour out my thoughts to you;

I will make my words known to you.

24 Because I have called and you refused,

have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,

25 and because you have ignored all my counsel

and would have none of my reproof,

26 I also will laugh at your calamity;

I will mock when panic strikes you,

27 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.”

**Hear what the Spirit is saying to god's people**

**Track 1 Psalm 19 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer or  
Wisdom of Solomon 7:26-8:1 read from the New Revised Standard Version Bible**

1 The heavens declare the glory of God, \*  
and the firmament shows his handiwork.  
2 One day tells its tale to another, \*  
and one night imparts knowledge to another.  
3 Although they have no words or language, \*  
and their voices are not heard,  
4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, \*  
and their message to the ends of the world.  
5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; \*  
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.  
6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens  
and runs about to the end of it again; \*  
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.  
7 The law of the Lord is perfect  
and revives the soul; \*  
the testimony of the Lord is sure  
and gives wisdom to the innocent.  
8 The statutes of the Lord are just

and rejoice the heart; \*

the commandment of the Lord is clear

and gives light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the Lord is clean

and endures for ever; \*

the judgments of the Lord are true

and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold,

more than much fine gold, \*

sweeter far than honey,

than honey in the comb.

11 By them also is your servant enlightened, \*

and in keeping them there is great reward.

12 Who can tell how often he offends? \*

cleanse me from my secret faults.

13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;

let them not get dominion over me; \*

then shall I be whole and sound,

and innocent of a great offense.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my

heart be acceptable in your sight, \*

O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

### **Wisdom of Solomon 7:26-8:1 read from the New Revised Standard Version Bible**

For wisdom is a reflection of eternal light,

a spotless mirror of the working of God,

and an image of his goodness.

Although she is but one, she can do all things,

and while remaining in herself, she renews all things;

in every generation she passes into holy souls

and makes them friends of God, and prophets;

for God loves nothing so much as the person who lives with wisdom.

She is more beautiful than the sun,  
and excels every constellation of the stars.  
Compared with the light she is found to be superior,  
for it is succeeded by the night,  
but against wisdom evil does not prevail.  
She reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other,  
and she orders all things well.

**Track 2 Old Testament: Isaiah 50:4-9a read from the New Revised Standard Version Bible**

4 The 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.

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

6 I 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.

7 The 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;

8 he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

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

**Hear what the Spirit is saying to god's people**

**Track 2 Psalm 116:1-8 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer**

1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, \*  
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

2 The cords of death entangled me;  
the grip of the grave took hold of me; \*  
I came to grief and sorrow.

3 Then I called upon the Name of the Lord: \*  
“O Lord, I pray you, save my life.”

4 Gracious is the Lord and righteous; \*  
our God is full of compassion.

5 The Lord watches over the innocent; \*  
I was brought very low, and he helped me.

6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, \*  
for the Lord has treated you well.

7 For you have rescued my life from death, \*  
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

8 I will walk in the presence of the Lord \*  
in the land of the living.

**The Epistle: James 3:1-12 read from the New Revised Standard Version Bible  
Anglicized**

3 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we  
who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 2 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. 3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. 4 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. 5 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! 6 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. 7 For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, 8 but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. 11 Does 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.

### **Here what the Spirit is saying to God's people**

#### **The Gospel: Mark 8:27-38 read from the World English Bible**

27 Jesus went out, with his disciples, into the villages of Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked his disciples, “Who do men say that I am?”

28 They told him, “John the Baptizer, and others say Elijah, but others, one of the prophets.”

29 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Peter answered, “You are the Christ.”

30 He commanded them that they should tell no one about him. 31 He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 He spoke to them openly. Peter took him and began to rebuke him. 33 But he, turning around and seeing his disciples, rebuked Peter, and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you have in mind not the things of God, but the things of men.”

34 He called the multitude to himself with his disciples and said to them, “Whoever wants to

come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 35 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it; and whoever will lose his life for my sake and the sake of the Good News will save it. 36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? 37 For what will a man give in exchange for his life? 38 For whoever will be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man also will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

### **The Gospel of the Lord**

**Closing Prayer: On September 12, we celebrate the life of John Henry Hobart, Bishop of New York. Read from *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*.**

John Henry Hobart was one of the leaders who revived The Episcopal Church, following the first two decades of its independent life after the American Revolution, a time that has been described as one of "suspended animation." Born in Philadelphia, September 14, 1775, Hobart was educated at the Universities of Pennsylvania and Princeton, graduating from the latter in 1793. Bishop William White, his longtime friend and adviser, ordained him deacon in 1798 and priest in 1801.

After serving parishes in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Long Island, Hobart became assistant minister of Trinity Church, New York City, in 1800. He was consecrated Assistant Bishop of New York on May 29, 1811. Five years later he succeeded Bishop Benjamin Moore, both as diocesan bishop and as rector of Trinity Church. He died at Auburn, New York, September 12, 1830, and was buried beneath the chancel of Trinity Church in New York City.

Within his first four years as bishop, Hobart doubled the number of his clergy and quadrupled the number of missionaries. Before his death, he had planted a church in almost every major town of New York State and had opened missionary work among the Oneida tribe of Native Americans. He was one of the founders of the General Theological Seminary, and the reviver of Geneva, now Hobart, College.

A strong and unbending upholder of Church standards, Hobart established the Bible and

Common Prayer Book Society of New York, and was one of the first American scholars to produce theological and devotional manuals for the laity. These “tracts,” as they were called, and the personal impression he made on the occasion of a visit to Oxford, were an influence on the development of the Tractarian Movement in England. Both friends and foes respected Hobart for his staunch faith, his consuming energy, his personal integrity, and his missionary zeal.

**Let us pray:** Revive your Church, Lord God of hosts, whenever it falls into complacency and sloth, by raising up devoted leaders, like your servant John Henry Hobart, whom we remember today; and grant that their faith and vigor of mind may awaken your people to your message and their mission; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**