

Readings for Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost September 19, 2021

[Proverbs 31:10-31](#), [Psalm 1](#), [James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a](#), [Mark 9:30-37](#)

The Collect

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Old Testament

Proverbs 31:10-31

A capable wife who can find?
She is far more precious than jewels.
The heart of her husband trusts in her,
and he will have no lack of gain.
She does him good, and not harm,
all the days of her life.
She seeks wool and flax,
and works with willing hands.
She is like the ships of the merchant,
she brings her food from far away.
She rises while it is still night
and provides food for her household
and tasks for her servant-girls.
She considers a field and buys it;
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
She girds herself with strength,
and makes her arms strong.
She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.
Her lamp does not go out at night.

She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her hands hold the spindle.
She opens her hand to the poor,
and reaches out her hands to the needy.
She is not afraid for her household when it snows,
for all her household are clothed in crimson.
She makes herself coverings;
her clothing is fine linen and purple.
Her husband is known in the city gates,
taking his seat among the elders of the land.
She makes linen garments and sells them;
she supplies the merchant with sashes.
Strength and dignity are her clothing,
and she laughs at the time to come.
She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
She looks well to the ways of her household,
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
Her children rise up and call her happy;
her husband too, and he praises her:
"Many women have done excellently,
but you surpass them all."
Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,
and let her works praise her in the city gates.

The Psalm

Psalm 1

- 1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- 2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.
- 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.
- 4 It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment
comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- 6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

The Epistle

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet

something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

The Gospel

Mark 9:30-37

Jesus and his disciples passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

Prayers of the People

Presider: Wonderful and compassionate God, you have revealed yourself through your Son Jesus Christ as a God of gentle service, resisting the violence of the proud and confirming the goodness of the innocent: Hear the offering of our prayers on behalf of the little, the last and the lost, as we say: Whoever wants to be first, must be last of all and servant of all.

Litanist: You have called your Church to sacrificial service in the name of your child Jesus: Grant us the wisdom from above which is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy, that your church may bring to you a harvest of righteousness. Whoever wants to be first, **must be last of all and servant of all.**

Confront the leaders of the world with your justice, and raise up courageous witnesses who will oppose wrong action and reprove the thoughts of the violent, that all who serve in positions of authority may join in your divine work to deliver the innocent and vulnerable from the hands of their adversaries. Whoever wants to be first, **must be last of all and servant of all.**

Be present with those who suffer throughout the world from war or violence or oppression, from illness, poverty or hunger or sadness: Let your kind and gentle hand be with them to comfort and deliver them. Whoever wants to be first, **must be last of all and servant of all.**

Spread your teaching throughout our community to increase among us those who are wise and understanding, whose works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. Whoever wants to be first, **must be last of all and servant of all.**

We offer to your gracious protection our intercessions for those for whom we are called to pray, especially those we now mention aloud or in the silence of our hearts (pause); all those serving our country at home and abroad; and those on our prayer list. We thank you for the gift of children and for calm strength and patient wisdom to nurture them as they grow to love whatever is just and true and good. We bring you our gratefulness for all our joys and blessings, especially for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries Rebecca, Michael, Mellody, JT, Bill, Claire, Cameron & Hannah. We entrust to your never failing care and love those who have died, especially those we now remember

aloud or in the silence of our hearts (pause). Whoever wants to be first, **must be last of all and servant of all.**

Presider: God and Father of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has endured the path of betrayal and death and triumphed in humble resurrection: Help us to extend your gentle embrace unto all your children, and thus welcome you into our lives through service and gratefulness, in the power of your Spirit and in the name of your risen and living Son. **Amen.**