

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 16, 2018



THE LESSON Proverbs 1:20-33

²⁰Wisdom shouts in the street; in the public square she raises her voice. ²¹Above the noisy crowd, she calls out. At the entrances of the city gates, she has her say: ²²How long will you clueless people love your naiveté, mockers hold their mocking dear, and fools hate knowledge? ²³You should respond when I correct you. Look, I'll pour out my spirit on you. I'll reveal my words to you. ²⁴I invited you, but you rejected me; I stretched out my hand to you, but you paid no attention. ²⁵You ignored all my advice, and you didn't want me to correct you. ²⁶So I'll laugh at

your disaster; I'll make fun of you when dread comes over you. ²⁷when terror hits you like a hurricane, and your disaster comes in like a tornado, when distress and oppression overcome you. ²⁸Then they will call me, but I won't answer; they will seek me, but won't find me ²⁹because they hated knowledge and didn't choose the fear of the LORD. ³⁰They didn't want my advice; they rejected all my corrections. ³¹They will eat from the fruit of their way, and they'll be full of their own schemes. ³²The immature will die because they turn away; smugness will destroy fools. ³³Those who obey me will dwell securely, untroubled by the dread of harm."

THE RESPONSE Psalm 19

Heaven is declaring God's glory; the sky is proclaiming his handiwork.

²One day gushes the news to the next, and one night informs another what needs to be known.

³Of course, there's no speech, no words—their voices can't be heard—

⁴but their sound extends throughout the world; their words reach the ends of the earth. God has made a tent in heaven for the sun.

⁵The sun is like a groom coming out of his honeymoon suite; like a warrior, it thrills at running its course.

⁶It rises in one end of the sky; its circuit is complete at the other. Nothing escapes its heat.

⁷The LORD's instruction is perfect, reviving one's very being.

The LORD's laws are faithful, making naive people wise.

⁸The LORD's regulations are right, gladdening the heart.

The LORD's commands are pure, giving light to the eyes.

⁷Honoring the LORD is correct, lasting forever.

The LORD's judgments are true. All of these are righteous!

¹⁰They are more desirable than gold—than tons of pure gold!—

¹¹They are sweeter than honey—even dripping off the honeycomb!

¹²No doubt about it: your servant is enlightened by them; there is great reward in keeping them.

¹³But can anyone know what they've accidentally done wrong? Clear me of any unknown sin

¹⁴and save your servant from willful sins. Don't let them rule me.

Then I'll be completely blameless; I'll be innocent of great wrongdoing.

¹⁵Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing to you, LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

THE EPISTLE James 3:1-12

My brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers, because we know that we teachers will be judged more strictly. ²We all make mistakes often, but those who don't make mistakes with their words have reached full maturity. Like a bridled horse, they can control themselves entirely. ³When we bridle horses and put bits in their mouths to lead them wherever we want, we can control their whole bodies.

⁴Consider ships: they are so large that strong winds are needed to drive them. But pilots direct their ships wherever they want with a little rudder. ⁵In the same way, even though the tongue is a small part of the body, it boasts wildly.

Think about this: A small flame can set a whole forest on fire. ⁶The tongue is a small flame of fire, a

world of evil at work in us. It contaminates our entire lives. Because of it, the circle of life is set on fire. The tongue itself is set on fire by the flames of hell.

⁷People can tame and already have tamed every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and fish. ⁸No one can tame the tongue, though. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we both bless the Lord and Father and curse human beings made in God's likeness. ¹⁰Blessing and cursing come from the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, it just shouldn't be this way!

¹¹Both fresh water and salt water don't come from the same spring, do they? ¹²My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree produce olives? Can a grapevine produce figs? Of course not, and fresh water doesn't flow from a saltwater spring either.

THE GOSPEL Mark 8:27-38

²⁷Jesus and his disciples went into the villages near Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"

²⁸They told him, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others one of the prophets."

²⁹He asked them, "And what about you? Who do you say that I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Christ." ³⁰Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: "The Human One must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts, and be killed, and then, after three days, rise from the dead." ³²He said this plainly. But Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him.

³³Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, then sternly corrected Peter: "Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking God's thoughts but human thoughts."

³⁴After calling the crowd together with his disciples, Jesus said to them, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. ³⁵All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me and because of the good news will save them. ³⁶Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? ³⁷What will people give in exchange for their lives? ³⁸Whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this unfaithful and sinful generation, the Human One will be ashamed of that person when he comes in the Father's glory with the holy angels."