

Stuck at Stage Two ... And Here's the Way Through

Video Link: https://youtu.be/_ORFpY6kKk

Order of Service ~ 2nd Sunday in the Season of Creation ~ Sunday Sep 12, 2021

Presider: the Rev. Andrew Twiddy

Assisting: Alli and Holly

Lectionary Readings:

PROVERBS 1:20-33

PSALM 19 OR WISDOM OF SOLOMON 7:26-8:1, AS CANTICLE

JAMES 3:1-12

MARK 8:27-37 (38)

Music for the day:

Hymns from *Common Praise* (1998) or the local parish booklet *Open Wide the Church's Door*

Prelude

hymn variations: (613) Garelochside

Opening 398 Let Us With a Gladsome Mind (*all 4 verses*) – Ps 19, Ps 136

Reconciliation/Invitation/

Reflection 430 Will You Come and Follow Me (*with solo verses*)

Gospel 479 O Christ the Master Carpenter

Offertory 613 We Lay Our Broken World (*with solo verses*)

Closing 392 Holy Wisdom (Who Comes From God)

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The Collect – the Prayer of the Day:

Wisdom of God,

from the doorways and the street corners

you proclaim the way of life and of death.

Grant us wisdom to recognize your Anointed One,

so that following in the way of the crucifixion,

we may come to know the way of life and glory;

in your name we pray. Amen.



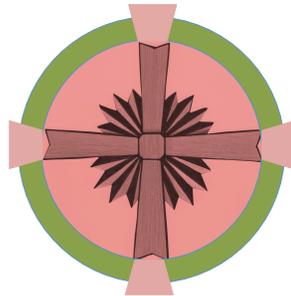
The West Coast Liturgy of the Diocese of Islands and Inlets

Sunday Service

(with Resources from West Coast Liturgy & Anglican Liturgy Online)

**The Community of Saint Anne & Saint Edmund
Parksville, British Columbia**

*a centre for spiritual growth,
compassionate action, and creative arts*



~ oneopencircle.org ~

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250-248-3114 OneOpenCircle.org

Resources:

<https://bc.anglican.ca/resources/worship-resources>
<https://www.anglican.ca/about/liturgicaltexts/>

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

Instrumental Prelude

hymn variations: (613) Garelochside

Acknowledgment of the Languages, Lands & Waters

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today for Sunday Service, as we celebrate, Humanity Sunday, the 2nd Sunday in the 5 weeks of the Season of Creation.

My name is Andrew Twiddy, and we are the community of St. Anne & St. Edmund, Parksville.

Visit us on our website, **OneOpenCircle.org/events**

On our website, you may click on the link to today's *Order of Service*, so that you can follow along.

Many of us gather online today from our homes on the ancestral territories of the Pentlatch-speaking peoples, the forebears of the Qualicum and Snaw-Naw-As First Nations, and in the lands and the watersheds of the Kwakwaka'wakw, Nuu-chah-nulth and Coast Salish peoples.

Gilakas'la, welcome!

klecko-klecko, greetings!

huy'ceep q'u, thank you for joining us, friends, honoured guests!

Our home and our buildings are a house of prayer for all peoples.

The primary language of our service today is English.

We also honour and seek to include and recover the foundational and indigenous languages of our scriptures and traditions that have brought us to this day: the Hebrew, Aramaic, Latin, and Greek languages and living communities, that are the roots from which we continue to grow our diverse and creative branches of faith, prayer and commonality.

Announcements & Worship Directions

*The presider offers further announcements or directions particular to the day's service.
Today we particularly give thanks for ...*

Opening Song

398 Let Us With a Gladsome Mind *(all 4 verses) – Ps 19, Ps 136*

Words of Gathering & Acclamation:

Voice 1: We gather in the name of the living God.

**All: We meet in the presence of Jesus,
God's Anointed, risen and alive.**

Voice 2: We gather with the community of faith around the globe and across the ages.

All: In this time and place, heaven and earth are one.

Voice 3: We are no longer alone. We are one in Christ.

All: We are knit together in the unity of the Spirit.

Presider:

In the name of the Holy and Blessed One,
Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Centering Stillness

Presider: In a time of quietness, let us centre ourselves,
in openness to the Spirit of God.

(the sound of a bell may lead us in and out of silence)

Presider: People shall come from the east and the west,
from the north and the south... and indeed,
the first shall be last, and the last shall be first.

Sung Invocation: Kyrie, Eleison *(Holy One, show compassion)*

Κύριε, ἐλέησόν

The Kyrie is sung four times – facing successively in the four directions, beginning to the east

Lamenting and Grieving: REMEMBERING OUR PART

Voice 1:

As the Anglican church on these islands and inlets, we acknowledge our part in the genocide perpetrated on the First Peoples of Turtle Island and, to the extent that we are able, we have committed to journeying towards healing and reconciliation with First Nation, Inuit, and Metis peoples.

Voice 2:

In the midst of remorse, lamentation and mourning for the loss of so many children buried in unmarked graves across our country, the settler church is called to listen to the stories, to bear witness to the grief and sorrow, and to prayerfully work towards healing for ourselves, for the First Peoples of this land, and for the world.

Voice 3:

Thus says the Holy One:

A voice is heard in Ramah,

lamentation and bitter weeping.

Rachel is weeping for her children;

she refuses to be comforted for her children,

because they are no more. (Jeremiah 31.15)

Presider:

Let us acknowledge the Creator, and pray for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept

Have mercy upon us, most merciful God;
**in your compassion, forgive us our sins,
 known and unknown, things done and left undone;
 and so uphold us by your Spirit
 that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
 to the honour and glory of your name;
 we pray it through Jesus,
 and we pray it in all the holy names of God. Amen.**

PSALM VERSE OF THE DAY :

Presider: Children are truly a heritage, from the Holy One

Psalm 127 (*verses may be sung in Hebrew by Andrew; tune: Coventry Carol*)

A song for the journeys that take us upward. A song of Solomon.

נְשִׁיר הַמַּעֲלוֹת לְשִׁלְמֹה

¹ Unless the Holy One builds the house, those who build it labour in vain.*
Unless the Holy One guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain.

אִם-יְהִינָהּ לֹא-יִבְנֶה בַּיִת וְשָׂא | עֲמָלוֹ בּוֹנֵיו בְּו

אִם-יְהִינָהּ לֹא-יִשְׁמַר-לְעִיר וְשָׂא | שְׂקֵד שׁוֹמְרֵי:

² It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest,
eating the bread of anxious toil; *
for God gives sleep to us, the beloved ones.

וְשָׂא לָכֶם | מִשְׁכָּיִמי לְיוֹם מֵאַחֲרֵי-שֶׁבֶת אֲכָלִי לֶחֶם הָעֵצָבִים

בְּו יִתֵּן לִידְיָדוֹ שְׁנָא:

³ Children are truly our heritage, from the Holy One, *
the fruit of the womb is so valuable for us all.

הִנֵּה נַחֲלַת יְהוָה בְּנִים

עֹשֶׂר פְּרֵי הַבֶּטֶן:

⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. *
Happy are those who have a quiver full of them.

כַּחֲצִים בְּיַד-גִּבּוֹר כֵּן בְּנֵי הַנְּעוּרִים:

אֲשֶׁרֵי הַגִּבּוֹר אֲשֶׁר מְלֵא אֶת-אֲשֵׁפָתוֹ מֵהֶם

⁵ They shall not be put to shame, *
when they speak with their opponents, at the gate of the courthouse.

לֹא-יִבְשׁוּ

כִּי-יִדְבְּרוּ אֶת-אוֹיְבֵים בַּשַּׁעַר:

Glory to the Creator, to the Word and the Wisdom,
to the Holy One and the Great Spirit. *

The one who is at the beginning, at the end, and is with us always.

Engaging The Word and the Wisdom

Presider:

As we continue to open ourselves to perceive the word and the wisdom coming to us in Holy Scripture, let us pray together the Collect, the prayer for the day:

Collect of the Day

**Wisdom of God,
from the doorways and the street corners
you proclaim the way of life and of death.
Grant us wisdom to recognize your Anointed One,
so that following in the way of the crucifixion,
we may come to know the way of life and glory;
in your name we pray. Amen.**

Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009) alt.

A First Reading: A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

Reader: Generosity is our true wealth! A reading from the Book of Proverbs.

Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice. At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

"How long, you naive ones, will you love being naive? How long will the sarcastic delight in their scoffing, and ignorant people hate knowledge?"

Give heed to my critique; I will pour out my thoughts to you; I will make my words known to you.

Because I have called and you have refused, because I have stretched out my hand, and no one heeded, and because you have ignored all my advice and would have none of my corrective actions, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when panic strikes you, when panic strikes you like a storm, and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you.

Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.

Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the way of reverence for the Holy One, would have none of my advice, and despised all my reproof, therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way and be sated with their own devices. For waywardness kills the naive, and the complacency of the ignorant destroys them.

But those who listen to me will be secure and will live at ease, without dread of disaster."

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom.

Thanks be to God

PROVERBS 1:20-33

~

NRSV, alt. A. Twiddy

Invitational Song:

430 Will You Come and Follow Me *(with solo verses)*

A Reading in Early Christian Scripture ~ James 3.1-12

Reader:

Every word we say could do good, ... or do harm.

A Reading in Early Christian Scripture, from the Letter of James.

3¹⁻² Don't be in any rush to become a teacher, my friends. Teaching is highly responsible work. Teachers are held to the strictest standards. And none of us is perfectly qualified. We get it wrong nearly every time we open our mouths. If you could find someone whose speech was perfectly true, you'd have a perfect person, in perfect control of life.

3³⁻⁵ A bit in the mouth of a horse controls the whole horse. A small rudder on a huge ship in the hands of a skilled captain sets a course in the face of the strongest winds. A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything—or destroy it!

5⁵⁻⁶ It only takes a spark, remember, to set off a forest fire. A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell.

7⁷⁻¹⁰ This is scary: You can tame a tiger, but you can't tame a tongue—it's never been done. The tongue runs wild, a wanton killer. With our tongues we bless God, our Beloved; with the same tongues we curse the very men and women he made in God's image. Curses and blessings out of the same mouth!

10¹⁰⁻¹² My friends, this can't go on. A spring doesn't gush fresh water one day and brackish the next, does it? Apple trees don't bear strawberries, do they? Raspberry bushes don't bear apples, do they? You're not going to dip into a polluted mud hole and get a cup of clear, cool water, are you?

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom. **Thanks be to God**

JAMES 3.1-12

Hymn for the Gospel Reading:

479 O Christ the Master Carpenter

The Gospel Reading:

Reader: The truth about our purpose in life is not always what we rationally would expect. The holy gospel, according to Mark.

*(All: ... **Glory to you, Jesus, God's Anointed**)*

²⁷ Jesus and his disciples headed out for the villages around Caesarea Philippi. As they walked, he asked, “Who do the people say I am?”

²⁸ “Some say ‘John the Baptizer,’” they said. “Others say ‘Elijah.’ Still others say ‘one of the prophets.’”

²⁹ He then asked, “And you—what are you saying about me? Who am I?” Peter gave the answer: “You are God’s Anointed One, the Christ.”

³⁰⁻³² Jesus warned them to keep it quiet, not to breathe a word of it to anyone.

He then began explaining things to them: “It is necessary that the Son of Man proceed to an ordeal of suffering, be tried and found guilty by the elders, high priests, and religion scholars, be killed, and after three days rise up alive.” He said this simply and clearly so they couldn’t miss it.

³²⁻³³ But Peter grabbed him in protest. Turning and seeing his disciples wavering, wondering what to believe, Jesus confronted Peter. “Peter, get out of my way! Satan, get lost! You have no idea how God works.”

³⁴⁻³⁷ Calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You’re not in the driver’s seat; *I* am. Don’t run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I’ll show you how.

Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to saving yourself, your true self.

What good would it do to get everything you want and lose you, the real you? What could you ever trade your soul for?

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom: The Gospel of Jesus, God’s Anointed.
 (...: **Praise to you, Jesus, God’s Anointed**)

MARK 8:27-37 NRSV, alt. A. Twiddy (The Process)

Talking the Walk, Walking the Talk

A homily or reflection

A time of quietness and/or instrumental music may follow

An Affirmation of Faith



Leader: Let us affirm our faith.

All:

**We give our hearts in trust to God,
 whose love is the source of all life
 and the desire of our lives.**

**We give our hearts in trust to Jesus,
who came to bring us healing,
and to liberate us from all forms of oppression.**

**We give our hearts in trust to the Spirit of God,
who transforms and transfigures our world,
and who works in and through all
who are turned towards the truth.**

**Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful
and sometimes full of doubt,
we affirm our trust in the Community of Faith,
and in the name of Jesus Christ,
we commit ourselves to the service of all people,
to seek justice and to live in peace,
to care for the earth, and to share
the commonwealth of God's goodness. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day (Offertory Hymn)

613 We Lay Our Broken World *(with solo verses)*

The Lifting Up of the Offering

The presider or an assistant lifts up in prayer an offering plate or basket, containing symbols of the dedication of our gifts, along with the symbols of our prayers for the world, the church, and the special needs of the day. We include the names of parishioners, community partners, and all others in our various cycles of prayer, along with the names of those who have requested our prayers

The Simplicity Prayer

(The Process, version 1.1, Andrew Twiddy, August 2020)

The Prayer Jesus Gave Us, in the tradition and simplicity of Clare and Francis of Assisi

~ A Franciscan Lord's Prayer ~

Our Beloved,

Your energy is compassionate and unique.

We want everyone to be aware of this.

We want everything to share in this.

Restore all things,

to be in harmony, on the outside, and on the inside.

Give us what we really need now,

for today, and for each day.

Free us from the harm we have done,

and help us, in our journey of recovery,

to release those who have harmed us.

Keep us safe during our times of distress,

and release us from oppression.

For your purpose, your strength, and your glory,

is to bring together everyone and everything.

We are depending on this. We are committed to this.

An Invitation to Weekly & Daily Prayer

*in our cycle of prayer this day and throughout this week, we give thanks and we pray together
for the well-being of the world, the church, and those in special need*

We give thank and we pray for peace, justice, and well-being throughout the world:

- giving thanks for all whose lives of service promote the common good
- honouring our journey of reconciliation with indigenous peoples
- asking that we may grow in our resolve to respond to climate crisis, and to care for our planet
- seeking a spirit of reconciliation & collaboration among nations, faiths, & cultures
- and remembering our governmental leaders and elected representatives,
in the municipal, provincial, federal, and international work they undertake

God of love and compassion hear our prayer

We give thanks and we pray for the mission and ministry of our wider family in faith:

- for ecumenical and interspiritual co-operation, and for all our neighbouring churches
- for our partnership in the Anglican communion throughout the world:
for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; for Linda our Primate; for Lynne our Metropolitan;
and for all with whom they work and serve
- for Mark our National Indigenous Archbishop, Melanie our Reconciliation Animator, for our journey in faith
and solidarity with the Council of the North, and for the work of all our Indigenous Anglican communities

God of love and compassion hear our prayer

We give thanks and we pray for the mission and ministry of our own parish and diocesan family, remembering especially:

- all our members, associates, and friends who share in our ministry
- for the ministry of all our parish groups, networks, partners & organizations
- for all parishes of our diocese, for Anna our Bishop, and for our priest Andrew,
in ministry among & beyond us;

God of love and compassion hear our prayer

We give thanks and we pray for those who express care and compassion,

- for those working on the frontlines of care and service in a time of global pandemic, for leaders in health care,
and for research workers and those who work behind the scenes to bring relief, hope, and healing
- for the work of the Primate's World Relief & Development Fund and its global partners, for the Canadian
Food Grains Bank and those responding to global hunger, drought, floods, fires, migration, and displacement
- remembering those who reach out to the needy and to vulnerable populations in our local community, & those
who nurture all the circles of our citizenship, both nationally and around the world
- for the work of our local agencies serving and advocating for those on the margins, and for those who face
issues of homelessness, addictions, and mental health support

God of love and compassion hear our prayer

As we stand in solidarity alongside all those in need, we pray:

- for those suffering from Coronavirus, through illness, anxiety, or isolation
- for those in trouble, sorrow, conflict, sickness, or any other adversity ...
- and in silence or aloud, we remember the special needs of those requesting our prayers ...

God of love and compassion hear our prayer



Prayers of the People:

Intercessions and Thanksgivings. The officiant or another member of the community leads the prayers, using the following form, or another form.

Voice 1:

Let us join in prayer with God's faithful people throughout the world, as we respond to the bidding "God of Love and compassion", with the words "**hear our prayer.**"

Voice 2:

We pray for the unity of your church, that our life may reflect the love you have shown us.

God of love and compassion: **Hear our prayer.**

Voice 3:

We ask your grace for Anna our bishop, Andrew our priest, and for all who minister in word and in action, that we may bear faithful witness to your good news.

God of love and compassion: **Hear our prayer.**

Voice 1:

We seek your peace and justice in our world, our country, and our community, that the needy may never be forgotten.

God of love and compassion, **Hear our prayer.**

Voice 2:

We ask your blessing on our homes, our friends and family, and on those who live alone, that we may know your presence ever near us.

God of love and compassion: **Hear our prayer.**

Voice 3:

We lift up to you all whom you have given us to pray for, knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can ask or imagine.

God of love and compassion: **Hear our prayer.**

Voice 1:

We commend to you all who have died, that our trust in you may deepen as you keep them safe in your care.

God of love and compassion: **Hear our prayer.**

Voice 2:

We offer our thanks and praise for all you have done for us, rejoicing in the knowledge that you are with us always.

God of love and compassion: **Hear our prayer.**

Voice 3:

We look for your purposes to be accomplished, and ask you to fill us with the strength and vision to further your reign.

God of love and compassion: **Hear our prayer.**



Presider:

We gather all our prayers into one, and following the pattern that Jesus gave us, we pray together:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name.

**Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Peace

From our hearts to your hearts,
from our sanctuary, to wherever you make your sanctuary...
the peace of God be always with you. **And also with you.**

A Blessing

Presider: We stand for our closing blessing.

May God's hidden presence bless you and keep you.

May God's unseen face shine compassion on you.

May God's smile caress you, and give you peace.

In the name of the one beyond all naming, +

strong, vulnerable, and compassionate, +

Creative Source, Holy One, and Great Spirit. +

Amen. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn:

392 Holy Wisdom (Who Comes From God)

A Commissioning for Service

Voice 1: May God send us forth with a *restless discomfort* ~
at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,
so that we may live deep within our hearts.

Voice 2: May God send us forth with a *holy foolishness* ~
with a confidence that we can make a difference in this world,
to restore justice, to offer kindness, and to heal the earth.

Voice 3: Go in peace, to love and to serve

All: Thanks be to God.

Listed Anglican Church of Canada Readings (NRSV text) & Prayers from:

<https://lectionary.anglican.ca/nrsv/?date=2021-09-12>

Sunday, September 12th, 2021

Readings

PROVERBS 1:20-33; PSALM 19 OR WISDOM OF SOLOMON 7:26-8:1 AS CANTICLE; JAMES 3:1-12; MARK 8:27-38

Collect

Almighty God,
you call your Church to witness
that in Christ we are reconciled to you.
Help us so to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may turn to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice. At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? Give heed to my reproof; I will pour out my thoughts to you; I will make my words known to you. Because I have called and you refused, have stretched out my hand and no one heeded, and because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when panic strikes you, when panic strikes you like a storm, and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord, would have none of my counsel, and despised all my reproof, therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way and be sated with their own devices. For waywardness kills the simple, and the complacency of fools destroys them; but those who listen to me will be secure and will live at ease, without dread of disaster."

PROVERBS 1:20-33

Psalm

PSALM

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows his handiwork.

One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.

Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

Their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world.

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.

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.

The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can tell how often he offends? cleanse me from my secret faults.

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.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

PSALM 19

Or

CANTICLE

REFRAIN Wisdom is an image of God's goodness; she orders all things well.

Wisdom is a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the working of God, and an image of his goodness. R

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. R

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. R

WISDOM OF SOLOMON 7:26-8:1

Second Reading**A READING FROM THE LETTER OF JAMES**

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 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. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. 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. 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! 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. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

JAMES 3:1-12

Gospel**THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK**

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

MARK 8:27-38

Prayer over the Gifts

Holy God,
accept all we offer you this day.
May we who are reconciled at this table
bring wholeness to our broken world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Prayer After Communion

God of peace,
in this eucharist we have been reconciled
to you and to our neighbours.
May we who have been nourished by holy things

always have the courage to forgive.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Epistle Reading from the Message

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4.16-5.10&version=MSG>

When You Open Your Mouth

James 3: 1-12

3 ¹⁻² Don't be in any rush to become a teacher, my friends. Teaching is highly responsible work. Teachers are held to the strictest standards. And none of us is perfectly qualified. We get it wrong nearly every time we open our mouths. If you could find someone whose speech was perfectly true, you'd have a perfect person, in perfect control of life.

³⁻⁵ A bit in the mouth of a horse controls the whole horse. A small rudder on a huge ship in the hands of a skilled captain sets a course in the face of the strongest winds. A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything—or destroy it!

⁵⁻⁶ It only takes a spark, remember, to set off a forest fire. A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell.

⁷⁻¹⁰ This is scary: You can tame a tiger, but you can't tame a tongue—it's never been done. The tongue runs wild, a wanton killer. With our tongues we bless God, our Beloved; with the same tongues we curse the very men and women he made in God's image. Curses and blessings out of the same mouth!

¹⁰⁻¹² My friends, this can't go on. A spring doesn't gush fresh water one day and brackish the next, does it? Apple trees don't bear strawberries, do they? Raspberry bushes don't bear apples, do they? You're not going to dip into a polluted mud hole and get a cup of clear, cool water, are you?

Gospel from the Message

Mark 8:27-38

The Message

The Messiah

²⁷ Jesus and his disciples headed out for the villages around Caesarea Philippi. As they walked, he asked, “Who do the people say I am?”

²⁸ “Some say ‘John the Baptizer,’” they said. “Others say ‘Elijah.’ Still others say ‘one of the prophets.’”

²⁹ He then asked, “And you—what are you saying about me? Who am I?”

Peter gave the answer: “You are the Christ, the Messiah.”

³⁰⁻³² Jesus warned them to keep it quiet, not to breathe a word of it to anyone. He then began explaining things to them: “It is necessary that the Son of Man proceed to an ordeal of suffering, be tried and found guilty by the elders, high priests, and religion scholars, be killed, and after three days rise up alive.” He said this simply and clearly so they couldn’t miss it.

³²⁻³³ But Peter grabbed him in protest. Turning and seeing his disciples wavering, wondering what to believe, Jesus confronted Peter. “Peter, get out of my way! Satan, get lost! You have no idea how God works.”

³⁴⁻³⁷ Calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You’re not in the driver’s seat; *I* am. Don’t run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I’ll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to saving yourself, your true self. What good would it do to get everything you want and lose you, the real you? What could you ever trade your soul for?”

³⁸ “If any of you are embarrassed over me and the way I’m leading you when you get around your fickle and unfocused friends, know that you’ll be an even greater embarrassment to the Son of Man when he arrives in all the splendor of God, his Father, with an army of the holy angels.”

Alternative Collects

(<https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/Alternative-RCL-Collects-Final-2019.pdf> - p.86)

Sunday between 11 and 17 September (Proper 24) Proverbs 1.20-33; Psalm 19 or Wisdom of Solomon 7.26-8.1; James 3.1-12; Mark 8.27-38

I Unite us, O God, in acknowledging Jesus as the Christ. Give us strength to take up his cross and courage to lose our lives for his sake; for we ask this in his name, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen. Opening Prayers (1997) alt. 89

II Wisdom of God, from the street corners and at the entrances to the city you proclaim the way of life and of death. Grant us wisdom to recognize your Messiah, so that following in the way of the cross, we may know the way of life and glory; in the name of Christ we pray. Amen. Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (2002) alt