

# FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018

## First Reading

Song of Solomon 2:8–13

### The Song of Solomon

8 The voice of my beloved!  
Look, he comes,  
leaping upon the mountains,  
bounding over the hills.  
9 My beloved is like a gazelle  
or a young stag.  
Look, there he stands  
behind our wall,  
gazing in at the windows,  
looking through the lattice.  
10 My beloved speaks and says to me:  
“Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away;  
11 for now the winter is past,  
the rain is over and gone.  
12 The flowers appear on the earth;  
the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtledove  
is heard in our land.  
13 The fig tree puts forth its figs,  
and the vines are in blossom;  
they give forth fragrance.  
Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## Psalm 45:1–2, 6–9

<sup>1</sup> My heart overflows with a goodly theme:  
I address my verses to the king;  
my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.  
<sup>2</sup> You are the most handsome of men:  
grace is poured upon your lips;  
therefore God has blessed you forever.

<sup>6</sup> Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever:  
Your royal scepter is a scepter of equity;  
<sup>7</sup> you love righteousness and hate wickedness:  
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;  
<sup>8</sup> your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia:  
From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad;  
<sup>9</sup> daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor:  
at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

## **Second Reading**

*James 1. 17-27*

### **The General Epistle of James**

<sup>17</sup> Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup> In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. <sup>19</sup> You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup> for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup> Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup> For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup> for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like.

<sup>25</sup> But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. <sup>26</sup> If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless.

<sup>27</sup> Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## **Gospel**

**Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark  
**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>7</sup> Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, <sup>2</sup> they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup> (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup> and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup> So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” <sup>6</sup> He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;  
<sup>7</sup> in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

<sup>8</sup> You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

<sup>14</sup> Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup> there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

<sup>21</sup> For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup> adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup> All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **Sentence**

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

James 1.17

## **Prayer of the day**

Cleanse our consciences, O Lord,  
and enlighten our hearts  
through the daily presence of your Son Jesus Christ,

that when he comes in glory to be our judge  
we may be found undefiled and acceptable in his sight;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **Supplementary Readings**

Song of Solomon 4.7-15

Psalm 15

James 1.1-13

### **Prayer Response**

Holy and Strong One,  
**hear our prayer.**