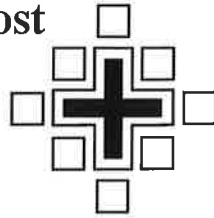


Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 16, 2018



INTROIT *Ps. 31:14–16; antiphon: Ps. 31:24*

Be strong, and let your heart take | courage,*
all you who wait | for the LORD!
But I trust in you, | O LORD;*
I say, “You | are my God.”
My times are | in your hand;*
rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my perse- | cutors!
Make your face shine on your | servant;*
save me in your | steadfast love!
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**
Be strong, and let your heart take | courage,*
all you who wait | for the LORD!

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defense in every need, continue to preserve Your Church in safety, govern her by Your goodness, and bless her with Your peace; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

GRADUAL *Ps. 34:9, 19, alt.*

Fear the LORD, | you his saints,*
for those who fear him lack | nothing!
Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,*
but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.

DAILY READINGS

September 16: 2 Chron. 35:1–7, 16–25; Col. 3:1–25; **17:** 2 Chron. 36:1–23; Col. 4:1–18; **18:** Neh. 1:1–2:10; 1 Tim. 1:1–20; **19:** Neh. 2:11–20; 4:1–6; 1 Tim. 2:1–15; **20:** Neh. 4:7–23; 1 Tim. 3:1–16; **21:** Neh. 5:1–16; 6:1–9, 15–16; 1 Tim. 4:1–16; **22:** Neh. 7:1–4; 8:1–18; 1 Tim. 5:1–16.

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Old Testament Reading:

Isaiah 50:4–10

- ⁴ The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a word
him who is weary.
Morning by morning he awakens;
he awakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.
- ⁵ The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backward.
- ⁶ I gave my back to those who strike,
and my cheeks to those who pull out the
beard;
I hid not my face
from disgrace and spitting.
- ⁷ But the Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like a 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 is my adversary?
Let him come near to me.
- ⁹ Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;
who will declare me guilty?
Behold, all of them will wear out like a
garment;
the moth will eat them up.
- ¹⁰ Who among you fears the LORD
and obeys the voice of his servant?
Let him who walks in darkness
and has no light
trust in the name of the LORD
and rely on his God.

Epistle: James 3:1–12

¹Not many of you should become teachers,
my brothers, for you know that we who teach
will be judged with greater strictness. ²For we
all stumble in many ways, and if anyone does
not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man,
able also to bridle his whole body. ³If we put
bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey
us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴Look
at the ships also: though they are so large and
are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a
very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot
directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member,
yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a
small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire, a world
of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among

our members, staining the whole body, setting
on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire
by hell. ⁷For every kind of beast and bird, of
reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has
been tamed by mankind, ⁸but no human being
can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of
deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless our Lord and
Father, and with it we curse people who are
made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same
mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers,
these things ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring
pour forth from the same opening both fresh and
salt water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear
olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can
a salt pond yield fresh water.

Holy Gospel: Mark 9:14–29

¹⁴When they came to the disciples, they saw
a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing
with them. ¹⁵And immediately all the crowd,
when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran
up to [Jesus] and greeted him. ¹⁶And he asked
them, “What are you arguing about with them?”
¹⁷And someone from the crowd answered him,
“Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a
spirit that makes him mute. ¹⁸And whenever it
seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams
and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I
asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were
not able.” ¹⁹And he answered them, “O faithless
generation, how long am I to be with you? How
long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.”
²⁰And they brought the boy to him. And when
the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the
boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about,
foaming at the mouth. ²¹And Jesus asked his
father, “How long has this been happening to
him?” And he said, “From childhood. ²²And it
has often cast him into fire and into water, to
destroy him. But if you can do anything, have
compassion on us and help us.” ²³And Jesus said
to him, “‘If you can’! All things are possible for
one who believes.” ²⁴Immediately the father of
the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my
unbelief!” ²⁵And when Jesus saw that a crowd
came running together, he rebuked the unclean
spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit,
I command you, come out of him and never
enter him again.” ²⁶And after crying out and
convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the
boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said,
“He is dead.” ²⁷But Jesus took him by the hand
and lifted him up, and he arose. ²⁸And when he
had entered the house, his disciples asked him
privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” ²⁹And
he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out
by anything but prayer.”