

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 September 2024

HYMNS

143 Immortal Invisible

717 Gives Thanks

474 Gather us in

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.

COLLECT

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.**

READINGS

A reading from Deuteronomy:

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!' For what



other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

Deuteronomy 4.1-2, 6-9

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

We say the verses of Psalm 15 alternately:

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may rest upon your holy hill?

Whoever leads an uncorrupt life and does the thing that is right;

Who speaks the truth from the heart and bears no deceit on the tongue;

Who does no evil to a friend and pours no scorn on a neighbour;

In whose sight the wicked are not esteemed, but who honours those who fear the Lord.

Whoever has sworn to a neighbour and never goes back on that word;

Who does not lend money in hope of gain, nor takes a bribe against the innocent;

Whoever does these things shall never fall.

Psalm 15

A reading from the letter of James:

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. In fulfilment 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. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. 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. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. 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. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues

but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. 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.

James 1.17-27

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation.

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Mark

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; 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.) 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?' He said to them, 'Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, "This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines." You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.'

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.' When he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. He said to them, 'Then do you also fail to understand? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?' (Thus he declared all foods clean.) And he said, 'It is what comes out of a person that defiles. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.'

Mark 7.1-8, 14-23

This is the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

PRAYERS

For the Church:

For the parish: Give thanks for our parish leadership: the clergy, Church Wardens and Parish Council, and the leaders of parish groups and teams; and pray that they may be inspired by the leadership of Jesus.

For the sick & in need, and those who have ongoing need for strength, courage and peace of heart, mind and soul in their journey: Keiran & Paul, Deirdre B, John & Barbara B, Barry B, Lorraine D, Helen & Geoff D, John F, Nan L, Jane & Peter M, Janet N, Stephen P, Pauline R, Hadyn R, Jenny S, Mary & Ian S, Ray & Marion W and those known to us in need of our prayers.

Year's Mind

1st Muriel Rathmill (2015)

3rd Joan Tarn (2017), Keith Heller (1988)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

2nd Ray Woods

5th Olivier Bonnici