

19 September 2021 - Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

The Collect

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers
of your people who call upon you;
and grant that they may both perceive and know
what things they ought to do,
and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil
them;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading

Wisdom of Solomon 1.16-2.1,12-22

But the ungodly by their
words and deeds summoned death;
considering him a friend, they pined away
and made a covenant with him,
because they are fit to belong to his company.
For they reasoned unsoundly, saying to themselves,
'Short and sorrowful is our life,
and there is no remedy when a life comes to its end,
and no one has been known to return from Hades.
'Let us lie in wait for the righteous man,
because he is inconvenient to us
and opposes our actions;
he reproaches us for sins against the law,
and accuses us of sins against our training.
He professes to have knowledge of God,
and calls himself a child of the Lord.
He became to us a reproof of our thoughts;
the very sight of him is a burden to us,
because his manner of life is unlike that of others,
and his ways are strange.
We are considered by him as something base,
and he avoids our ways as unclean;
he calls the last end of the righteous happy,
and boasts that God is his father.
Let us see if his words are true,
and let us test what will happen at the end of his life;
for if the righteous man is God's child, he will help him,
and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries.
Let us test him with insult and torture,
so that we may find out how gentle he is,
and make trial of his forbearance.
Let us condemn him to a shameful death,
for, according to what he says, he will be protected.'
Thus they reasoned, but they were led astray,
for their wickedness blinded them,
and they did not know the secret purposes of God,
nor hoped for the wages of holiness,
nor discerned the prize for blameless souls;

Second Reading

James 3.13-4.3,7-8a

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by
your good life that your works are done with gentleness
born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish
ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to
the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above,
but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy
and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and
wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is
first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of
mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or
hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in
peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they
come from? Do they not come from your cravings that
are at war within you? You want something and do not
have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something
and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and
conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You
ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order
to spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit
yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will
flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to
you.

Gospel

Mark 9.30-37

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples went
on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not
want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples,
saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into
human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after
being killed, he will rise again.' But they did not
understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask
him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the
house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on
the way?' But they were silent, for on the way they had
argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat
down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever
wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.'
Then he took a little child and put it among them; and
taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes
one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever
welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent
me.'

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God,
you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.