

Pentecost 15

September 1, 2024

14th Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 17 (Year B)

There are three main things that keep us from following Jesus in our lives: the world and its forces, the flesh, and the devil. Dwelling in God’s holy Word builds a shield around us. It fortifies our hearts against the powers and principalities that seek to destroy us, or at the very least keep us from a loving relationship with Christ. When we put on the armor of God, the Lord protects us from attacks.



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 The Wisdom of God’s Word

Moses instructed the Israelites to listen and learn the statutes of the Lord. By keeping them they would become wise, not only among their own tribes, but also in the eyes of the nations that surrounded them. They were not to add or subtract anything from God’s commandments but to hold them close forever.

Psalm 119:129-136 Your Word Gives Light

The psalmist praised God’s decrees even as he wept over the fact that many do not follow God’s commands or keep his Word. The Word of the Lord gives light, wisdom, and understanding to those who seek it and are obedient to it.

Second Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20 Put on the Whole Armor of God

St. Paul wrote to encourage the Christians in Ephesus with whom he had spent significant time. He knew that they were living in the midst of a culture that worshipped pagan idols and that the enemy, Satan, was fighting against their faith. “Put on the whole armor of God,” Paul instructed, so they might stand against the attacks of evil. Spiritual warfare is a very real thing indeed!

Gospel Reading: Mark 7:14-23 What Defiles?

Jesus taught his disciples that it wasn’t what was put into the mouth, like food or drink, that defiled the body. Rather it was what came from a person’s heart that made them unclean. Evil thoughts and actions come from within a person and are signs of impurity and disobedience to the ways of the Lord.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: Green
- Use the Kyrie OR the Hymn of Praise
- Use the Apostles’ Creed
- When we hear St. Paul mention “the wiles of the devil” in Ephesians 6, we might not at first be able to identify what those schemes against us actually are. It would be helpful for many to hear the preacher speak about how Satan attacks Christians. One list might include: lies, deception, secrets, twisting of God’s Word, tricking us into thinking he isn’t real, tempting us with money or other possessions, lust, pride, power, and even discouragement and darkness. What would you add to this list?

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
God’s Word is Our Great Heritage	239	---	582	509	70	70
Great is Thy Faithfulness	---	771	809	733	211	---
Jesus, Priceless Treasure	458	---	743	775	39	39
Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now	253	---	902	527	44	44
Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word	230	---	655	517	71	71
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	543	---	790	858	11	11
Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me	327	---	761	623	226	226
Spread, Oh Spread, Almighty Word	379	---	---	663	---	---
The Church’s One Foundation	369	---	644	654	88	88
O Bread of Life from Heaven	222	---	---	480	84	84

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at “Hymns and Music.”

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

- Praise Song Titles:
- Joyful
(CCLI# 7171485)
- Word of God Speak
(CCLI# 3912788)
- Ancient Words
(CCLI# 2986399)
- Your Word
(CCLI# 7032685)
- Way Maker
(CCLI# 7115744)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.