

# 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

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Proper 18

Year B

## The Collect of the Day

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*

## From the Book of Isaiah 35:4-7a

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." <sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup> then shall the lame man leap like a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; ...

## Psalm 146:4-9

*Lauda, anima mea*

- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! \* whose hope is in the Lord their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \* who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \* and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; \* the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; \* he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- 9 The Lord shall reign for ever, \* your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

## **A Reading from James 1:17-27**

Every good endowment and 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> Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures. <sup>19</sup> Know this, my beloved brethren. Let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger, <sup>20</sup> for the anger of man does not work the righteousness of God. <sup>21</sup>

Therefore put away all filthiness and rank growth of wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. <sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if any one is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who observes his natural face in a mirror; <sup>24</sup> for he observes himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. <sup>25</sup> But he who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer that forgets but a doer that acts, he shall be blessed in his doing. <sup>26</sup> If any one thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this man's religion is vain. <sup>27</sup> Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

## **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark 7:31-37**

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, through the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup> And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech; and they besought him to lay his hand upon him. <sup>33</sup> And taking him aside from the multitude privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue; <sup>34</sup> and looking up to heaven, he sighed, and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." <sup>35</sup> And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup> And he charged them to tell no one; but the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup> And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well; he even makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak."