



Wednesday, September 3rd

Psalm 38

1 O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath.

2 For your arrows have sunk into me, and your hand has come down on me.

3 There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin.

4 For my iniquities have gone over my head; they weigh like a burden too heavy for me.

5 My wounds grow foul and fester because of my foolishness;

6 I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all day long I go around mourning.

7 For my loins are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh.

8 I am utterly spent and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart.

9 O Lord, all my longing is known to you; my sighing is not hidden from you.

10 My heart throbs; my strength fails me; as for the light of my eyes—it also has gone from me.

11 My friends and companions stand aloof from my affliction, and my neighbors stand far off.

12 Those who seek my life lay their snares; those who seek to hurt me speak of ruin and meditate on treachery all day long.

13 But I am like the deaf; I do not hear; like the mute, who cannot speak.

14 Truly, I am like one who does not hear and in whose mouth is no retort.

15 But it is for you, O Lord, that I wait; it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer.

16 For I pray, “Only do not let them rejoice over me, those who boast against me when my foot slips.”

17 For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever with me.

18 I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin.

19 Those who are my foes without cause are mighty, and many are those who hate me wrongfully.

20 Those who render me evil for good are my adversaries because I follow after good.

21 Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, do not be far from me;

22 make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation.

A reading from the letter of James (James 3:1-12)

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will face stricter judgment. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is mature, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of life, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse people, made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth comes a blessing and a curse. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A reading from the Gospel of Mark (Mark 15:1-11)

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” He answered him, “You say so.” Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, “Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.” But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.