



St George's Anglican Church | Malvern

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**30 August 2015**

**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. *James 7.73*

**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.**

**A Reading from the book of Deuteronomy**

*This passage comes from the prologue to the Deuteronomic law. The reading underlines the great privilege Israel enjoys through the possession of the law.* Moses spoke to the people; he said: 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*

Reader For the word of the Lord  
All **Thanks be to God**

### Psalm 15 at 8am APBA page 234

## Responsorial Psalm 15

Richard Proulx



- 1 Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?  
Those who walk without fault;  
Those who act with justice  
and speak the truth from their hearts.
- 2 Those who do no wrong to their kindred,  
who cast no slur on their neighbours,  
who hold the godless in disdain,  
but honour those who fear the Lord.
- 3 Those who keep their pledge, come what may;  
who take no interest on a loan  
and accept no bribes against the innocent.  
Such people will stand firm for ever.

### A Reading from the letter of James

*For the next five weeks the second reading will be from the Letter of James. Traditionally accepted as the work of James the brother of the Lord, the author simply calls himself "a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ" (1:1). True religion, James insists, is ethical obedience. He does not mean to decry the importance of worship—after all, he mentions baptism and the hearing of the word—but insists that the performance of these must lead to a life of obedience or listening to God.*

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*

Reader    May your word live in us.  
**ALL        And bear much fruit to your glory.**  
**Gospel Acclamation**

**ALL        Alleluia! Alleluia!**  
Cantor        Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers.  
**ALL        Alleluia!**  
Reader        The Lord be with you  
**ALL        And also with you**  
Reader        A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.  
**ALL        Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Today we return to Mark's gospel, written for a largely Gentile community. The parenthesis are the benefit of Gentile readers unfamiliar with Jewish customs. The disciples are accused of not washing before dinner, as the purity laws require. Jesus replies that it is not what people eat that defiles them; it is their inner purity, issuing in outward behaviour that matters. The catalogue of vices (vv. 21-23) was a common teaching device in the early church.*

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?" Jesus 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.' The Jesus 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. 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*

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord  
**ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

**Bible Readings next week 6 September 2015**

**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Isaiah 35.4-7a Psalm 146 James 2.1-10, 14-17 Mark 7.24-37

**Prayer for the Week**

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things:  
graft in our hearts the love of your name,  
increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness,  
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Pray for the Faithful Departed**

We remember before God: Clifford Smith, Clifford Searby, Rose MacPherson, John Sanderson, Burnice Furzer, Joseph Farrington, Winifred McConnell, Marjorie Watson, Charles Gregory, Doreen Wagstaff, Ruth Olver, Violet Smith, Timothy Malloch *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

### **Commemorations of the week**

**August 31 John Bunyan**, preacher and spiritual writer (1628-1688). Best known for his *Pilgrim's Progress* (the most popular Christian book after the bible).

**August 31 Aidan of Lindisfarne**, bishop and missionary (d.651). A monk at Iona, missionary to the English and later first abbot of Lindisfarne.

**September 2 The martyrs of New Guinea** (d. 1942 during the Japanese invasion)

**September 3 Gregory of Rome**, bishop and teacher (540-604), one of the greatest of the early popes. He sent Augustine of Canterbury to England in 597.

**September 3 Eliza Darling**, pioneer social reformer in NSW (d. 1868).

**The five Victorian Anglican Dioceses—Melbourne, Bendigo, Ballarat, Gippsland and Wangaratta** will meet here next Friday as the Provincial Council. It is an honour for St George's to host this meeting which will begin with morning prayer in the Church and continue during the day. Please pray for the bishops and representatives as they seek to work together across Victoria.