

First Scripture Reading

Mark 9:30-37

from the Common English Bible

³⁰From there Jesus and his followers went through Galilee, but he didn't want anyone to know it. ³¹This was because he was teaching his disciples, "The Human One will be delivered into human hands. They will kill him. Three days after he is killed he will rise up." ³²But they didn't understand this kind of talk, and they were afraid to ask him. ³³They entered Capernaum. When they had come into a house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about during the journey?" ³⁴They didn't respond, since on the way they had been debating with each other about who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be least of all and the servant of all." ³⁶Jesus reached for a little child, placed him among the Twelve, and embraced him. Then he said, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one of these children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me isn't actually welcoming me but rather the one who sent me."

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm Reading

1

from the UMH, 738

¹Blessed are those who do not walk in the counsel of the wicked...
or stand in the way of sinners, or sit in the seat of scoffers...

²but their delight is in the law of the Lord...
and on God's law they meditate day and night.

³They are like trees planted by streams of water that yield their fruit in season, and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.

⁴The wicked are not so, but are like chaff which the wind drives away.
⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment; nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous...

⁶for the Lord knows the way of the righteous...
but the way of the wicked will perish.

Second Scripture Reading
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
from the Common English Bible

¹³Are any of you wise and understanding? Show that your actions are good with a humble lifestyle that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴However, if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, then stop bragging and living in ways that deny the truth. ¹⁵This is not the wisdom that comes down from above. Instead, it is from the earth, natural and demonic. ¹⁶Wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there is disorder and everything that is evil. ¹⁷What of the wisdom from above? First, it is pure, and then peaceful, gentle, obedient, filled with mercy and good actions, fair, and genuine. ¹⁸Those who make peace sow the seeds of justice by their peaceful acts. ¹What is the source of conflict among you? What is the source of your disputes? Don't they come from your cravings that are at war in your own lives? ²You long for something you don't have, so you commit murder. You are jealous for something you can't get, so you struggle and fight. You don't have because you don't ask. ³You ask and don't have because you ask with evil intentions, to waste it on your own cravings. ⁷Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will run away from you. ⁸Come near to God, and he will come near to you.