

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity *B*

The Collect

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN

A reading from the book Deuteronomy [4. 1 -2, 6 - 9]

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.

Reader / This is the Word of the Lord *Response* / **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 15

**R/ Those who do what is right
will dwell in the presence of the Lord.**

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?
who may abide upon your holy hill?
Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right,
who speaks the truth from his heart.

**R/ Those who do what is right
will dwell in the presence of the Lord.**

There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend;
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbour.
In his sight the wicked are rejected,
but he honours those who fear the Lord.

**R/ Those who do what is right
will dwell in the presence of the Lord.**

He has sworn to do no wrong
and does not take back his word.
He does not give his money in hope of gain,
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
Whoever does these things
shall never be overthrown.

**R/ Those who do what is right
will dwell in the presence of the Lord.**

A reading from the letter of St James [1; 17 - 27]

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.

Reader/ This is the Word of the Lord *Response /* **Thanks be to God**

Gradual Hymn

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your words are spirit, Lord,
and they are life:
you have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you: **And also with you**

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St Mark *Glory to you, O Lord*

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.’ Then he 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.’

[*St Mark 7.1–8, 14–15, 21–23*]

This is the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, O Christ**

AT THE EUCHARIST TODAY 1st September 2024 Proper 17 B

HYMNS: (*St Arvans*) 334; 427, 333; 439 (*T 257*)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Be merciful to me , O Lord: I call upon you all the day long.

For you, Lord are good and forgiving:

Abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you. *[Cf Psalm 86. 3, 5]*

The response to the offertory prayers is: **Blessed be God for ever**

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS:

May this sacred offering, O Lord,
confer on us always the blessing of salvation,
that what it celebrates in mystery
it may accomplish in power.

Through Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

Celebrant : Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins
of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**[Response : Lord I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.]**

POST-COMMUNION SENTENCE:

How abundant is your goodness, O Lord,
which you have laid up for those who fear you

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

NOTICES:

Services for 1st September:

St Arvans: 10am Sung Eucharist (available to view on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/vicaragecello1>)

St Mary's Penterry: 11.30am Harvest Eucharist with Hymns

St James, Devauden: 4pm Family Eucharist

You can find details of services across the whole Ministry Area on our website www.severnwyema.co.uk

Meditation on Wednesday evening at 7.15pm in St Arvans Church. We meditate for around 20 minutes. Do come and take a few minutes for silent contemplation or prayer in the middle of our busy lives.

The Ministry Area Prayer Group will meet on Thursday at 7.45pm - 9pm in St Mary's Penterry

We pray for our own local communities and churches, for the wider church, for those who have asked for our prayers, for those in need locally, nationally and globally. If there is anything you would like us to pray for – come and join us, just for one week if you like, you don't have to become a regular member. Or send your request to david@bedlambeds.com

Future prayer meetings will be held in:
12th September: Holy Cross Kilgwrrwg
19th September: St Christophers
26th September St Mary's Priory Chepstow

The Ministry Area Bible Study Group meets every Tuesday in Shirenewton Church Rooms at 2.45pm

Everyone is most welcome - we are a small and very friendly group, and our study is very practically based: what does the bible mean for the way we should be living our lives today.

A reminder that the **DEVAUDEN PHOTO COMPETITION 2024 IS OPEN FOR ENTRIES**

Closing date, Midnight, Sunday 1st September - LAST CHANCE !

All photos must be taken within 5 miles of the Wesley statue on the village green, after 1st August 2023.

One entry per person. Email your entry to devauden.photos@gmail.com

MINISTRY AREA BIRTHDAY PARTIES

A free cream tea and a chance to meet others from across the Ministry Area. To book please contact Revd Zoe severn.wye.MAL@gmail.com or 07754 306229

Parties will be held every other month on 8th September, 10th November, 12th January - please come to the party closest to your birthday !
