

Question for Reflection

When we hear Jesus say we are to “deny” ourselves, this can seem strangely harsh language, and it is well that each of us knows what it means in our own lives. You are made in God’s image. As an image of the divine, God does not command you to be nothing. You are not to be denigrated. What aspects of your life, your desires, your tendencies, do you recognize as impeding your ability to set your mind on what you truly want and need? What is your cross? Perhaps you see more than one cross you must bear. If you “take up” your cross (or crosses), how might you live differently than you do now?

For Your Study and Reflection This Week **17th Sunday after Pentecost**

Proverbs 1:20-33

Wisdom cries out in the street;
in the squares she raises her voice.
At the busiest corner she cries out;
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:
“How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
and fools hate knowledge?
Give heed to my reproof;
I will pour out my thoughts to you;
I will make my words known to you.” (vv. 20-23)

Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God,
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge. (vv.1-2)

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. (vv. 1-2)

Mark 8:27-38

[Jesus] called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.” (vv. 34-35)

TWO-YEAR DAILY LECTIONARY

Year 2 • Proper 19

Week of the Sunday closest to September 14

Sunday, September 15, 2024

Psalms 24, 29 (*morning*)

Job 38:1, 18-41

Rev. 18:1-8

Matt. 5:21-26

Psalms 8, 84 (*evening*)

Monday, September 16, 2024

Psalms 56, 57, [58] (*morning*)

Job 40:1-24

Acts 15:36—16:5

John 11:55—12:8

Psalms 64, 65 (*evening*)

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Psalms 61, 62 (*morning*)

Job 40:1; 41:1-11

Acts 16:6-15

John 12:9-19

Psalms 68:1-20 (21-23) 24-36

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Psalms 72 (*morning*)

Job 42:1-17

Acts 16:16-24

John 12:20-26

Psalms 119:73-96 (*evening*)

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Psalms [70], 71 (*morning*)

Job 28:1-28

Acts 16:25-40

John 12:27-36a

Psalms 74

Friday, September 20, 2024

Psalms 69:1-23 (24-30) 31-38 (*morning*)

Esther 1:1-4, 10-19

or Judith 4:1-15

Acts 17:1-15

John 12:36b-43

Psalms 73 (*evening*)

Saturday, September 21, 2024

Psalms 75, 76 (*morning*)

Esther 2:5-8, 15-23

or Judith 5:1-21

Acts 17:16-34

John 12:44-50

Psalms 23, 27 (*evening*)

Sunday, September 22, 2024

Psalms 93, 96 (*morning*)

Esther 3:1—4:3

or Judith 5:22—6:4, 10-21

James 1:19-27

Matt. 6:1-6, 16-18

Psalms 34 (*evening*)

Household Prayer: Morning

Thank you, God, for this good night and day,
for time to sleep and wake,
for dark and light,
for silence and noise,
for stillness and movement,
for my body, mind, and heart.
Give me the strength today to bear my cross with patience
so that whoever I meet will find a moment of calm
in my presence because of you.
I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Thank you, God, for this good day and now for night,
for all that has transpired in the last hours,
for the food I have been given,
for the work I have had to do,
for the exercise, for breathing, for what my ears have heard,
for friends, for coworkers,
and for what I have seen growing in the soil
and shining in the sunlight.
Guard me now as I sleep and give me good rest
for the sake of the tasks you have set before me tomorrow.
I pray for your peace, in Jesus' name. Amen.