



56B PENTECOST 16B - ONLINE LITURGY

Proclaiming Christ

Abstract

What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Mark 8:36-38

Jim de Jong
jim@dejongs.id.au

NEW TESTAMENT

James 3:1–12

3 Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

² We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

³ When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴ Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.

⁵ Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.

⁶ The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

⁷ All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

⁹ With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. ¹¹ Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹² My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

GOSPEL

Mark 8:27–38

²⁷ Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”

²⁸ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

²⁹ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.”

³⁰ Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? ³⁷ Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”ⁱ

56B Pentecost 16B - Online Liturgy Proclaiming Christ

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2021 | AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 19

YEAR B

Old Testament & Psalm, Option I

Old Testament Proverbs 1:20–33

Psalm Psalm 19 or Wisdom of Solomon 7:26–8:1

or

Old Testament & Psalm, Option II

Old Testament Isaiah 50:4–9a

Psalm Psalm 116:1–9

New Testament James 3:1–12

Gospel Mark 8:27–38ⁱⁱ

	Pre-Service
	<p>Introit 1 - Sons of Korah psalm 19a</p>
	<p>Greeting</p> <p>May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ The Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all</p> <p>and also with us</p>
	<p>We Gather</p> <p>Come to worship, to be comforted and disturbed, challenged from our complacency, but also offered forgiveness and the hope of eternal life. Come to Jesus, prophet, priest and king. Amen</p> <p>Acknowledgements</p> <p>Creative God, you called us into your kingdom,</p>

	<p>and adopted us as your children. Redeeming Saviour, you showed us how to be servants, denying ourselves to serve others. Sustaining Spirit, you give us strength to take up our cross in the service of the kingdom of God. Teach us to serve others, and in doing so, to serve you. Amen.</p>
	<p>Introduction Remember the phrase “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me.”</p> <p>Do you think this is true? To me it sounds like a cave man statement. Is coercive behaviour, whether verbal or physical In any world, appropriate.</p> <p>This week, the National Summit on Women's Safety Again, awakened our awareness of the scourge of domestic violence against women in our society. Every day our sport news again has stories of sport men and women being racially vilified. So man families have stories of our children being bullied in our schools and playgrounds.</p> <p>The most affirmative statement in all this is That these statements still shock us.</p> <p>These statements are so far away from the words we proclaim in our communities of the love of Christ. We need however to proclaimed the love of Christ with actions. We need to be careful with both our words and our actions. Let us reflect on this during a prayer of confession.</p>
	<p>We say sorry</p> <p>Merciful God, we confess that we are not always careful with our words or our actions. We do not think about what we say or how it will hurt others. We express our own hurt, anger, frustration, resentment, without thought of its wider impact. We label people with names that put them down, sometimes unintentionally. We gossip and spread rumours about others. We say things that are not quite true in order to look or feel better. We confess these hurtful words and ask your forgiveness. We have not shown your love by our words or our actions.</p> <p>Bring us back to you, Oh God. Help us to follow your ways of love and grace,</p>

	<p>and to use our words to proclaim your goodness and glory. May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing to you, Oh God. Help us to show love in all we say and all we do. We pray in Christ, Amen.</p>
	<p>Assurance of Forgiveness</p> <p>Hear then Christ's word of grace to us: 'Your sins are forgiven'. Thanks be to God.</p>
	<p>Hymn/song 2 - TIS #746 - The heavens shall declare</p>
	<p>Welcome</p> <p><i>Ley us pray</i> <i>Our prayer of Approach</i> Lord, you walked with your disciples from village to village. And on the way you talked to them about many things. The whole package.</p> <p>Some things were not easy to hear or to understand. We meet you here today, Lord, to hear these things too. The whole package.</p> <p>You don't call us to sit doing nothing. You want us to be on the move: taking risks to change our world and save our lives. Help us, then, to draw close to you, to be ready to listen. Then to act. The whole package. Amen.</p>
	<p>Readings James 3:1-12</p>
	<p>Short Talk</p> <p>Do you play a sport? Playing sport helps us to stay fit and to build our muscles as well as being something we enjoy – or for some used to. Other people go to a gym to stay fit and build their muscles.</p> <p>Do you know which is the most powerful muscle in our body? Do you think it might be your legs, which run so fast? Or your arms, to help you throw and catch balls? What about our other muscles?</p>

Our heart is a muscle,
and it needs to be powerful to pump our blood around our body.

One of our jaw muscles is actually the more powerful muscle
if you consider its size.
it is only a small muscle, but it needs a lot of force to chew our food.

Did you know that your tongue is a muscle too?
The Bible reading from the letter of James
suggests that our tongue is a very powerful muscle.

We don't use our tongue to run, or lift weights,
or pump blood through our bodies.

Our tongues are very small.
We use our tongues to speak,
and our words can be very powerful.

We can use our words to be kind and loving and helpful.
Or we can use our words to be mean,
to make trouble and hurt other people.
Our tongue is very powerful because it can have a big effect on others.

We each know that words are like toothpaste squeezed out of a tube,
and once they are out, they cannot be put back in.
We need to be careful about our words.

Even more, we need to attend to our inner being, our prayer life,
and our relationship with God.

When we are clean inside,
what comes out is more likely to be loving,
kind and helpful.

We are made in Christ's image,
and when we follow his ways,
our lives proclaim his love and grace.

We can train our tongue,
just like we train our leg and arm muscles to build them up.

We can practise saying nice things to our friends.
That will teach our tongues to use kind words.

Amen

Prayer

Thank you God for our bodies, and all the things they can do.
Thank you for our tongues,
to speak and laugh and sing.
Help us to use our tongues to speak kind and loving words to others.
Amen

Hymn/song/video

3 - TIS #210 - O for a thousand tongues to sing

Second Reading

4 - Mark 8:27-38

Response

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Response

Do you like to play games?

Do you have a favourite game?

When Grace was alive we would play rummikin or rummikub.

Have you ever played the game, Who am I?

I will read you 4 clues, and ask you to guess who I am talking about.

I will read the clues out one at a time.

When you think you know who the person is, put your hand up.

Who am I?

- I am a children's cartoon character.
- I am the official mascot of the Walt Disney company.
- I have a girlfriend called Minnie.
- I am a mouse.

(Mickey Mouse)

Who am I?

- I was a tax collector
- I cheated people out of their money
- I was short
- I might be found up a tree

(Zacchaeus)

Who am I?

- I was a young woman who found favour with God
- I was chosen to do something great
- I was visited by an angel
- I became the mother of God's only Son

(Mary)

Who am I?

- I was told by God to go and preach
- Instead, I ran away
- I caused a great storm on the sea
- A giant fish swallowed me

(Jonah)

Who Am I?

- I lived, but I was never born
- I gave all the animals their names
- I lived in a beautiful garden called Eden
- I was the very first man

(Adam)

Who Am I?

- I was my father's favourite son
- My brothers didn't like me
- My brothers sold me as a slave

- I wore a coat of many colours

(Joseph)

Who am I?

- I was just a little shepherd boy
- I liked to play the harp
- I was pretty good with a sling shot
- I became famous for killing a giant

(David)

Who am I?

- Some people thought I was a great teacher
- Some people thought I was John the Baptist
- Some people thought I was Elijah or one of the prophets
- I am the Son of God

(Jesus)

Lets discuss some of the other things we know about Jesus...

he was born in a stable, his mother was Mary,
We know simple details of his life, his miracles and his teachings

I think Jesus liked to play the “Who Am I?” game too.

One day Jesus asked his followers if they knew who he was.

Some said he was a great teacher or prophet.

But Peter knew Jesus was the Messiah,

the special leader they had been waiting for.

Peter knew this

because Jesus’ words and his actions showed who he was.

Our words and actions show who we are too.

If we want to be known as kind and loving and a good friend,
our words and our actions
must show we are kind and loving and friendly.

We proclaim Jesus’ love and grace by who we are and how we live.

Prayer

God, you are loving and kind.

We thank you for Jesus, who came to show us who you are.

Help us to follow Jesus’ ways and be loving and kind also. A

Men

Reflection

We did some work on this last time we were here.

How you would describe yourself.

Consider not only your appearance
but your actions and your personal qualities.

We did some work on this last time we were here.

The Jewish people had been waiting for a Messiah,
who had been promised in the Scriptures since ancient times.

They were expecting a great and powerful leader
 who would free them from the Roman rule,
 and establish a kingdom made up of God's people.

Jesus was not doing any of these things,
 and had not been widely recognised as the Messiah.
 In this reading, Peter affirms Jesus' identity and proclaims him as Lord.
 Jesus went on to describe
 how being the Messiah would bring rejection, suffering and death.

Peter didn't understand what Jesus was saying and rebuked him:
 we sometimes brush off negative comments from others.
 Jesus explained that things were going to be difficult,
 for himself and for his followers.
 Following his ways might bring
 suffering and sacrifice for them also.

If we proclaim Jesus with our lips,
 we need to be prepared to proclaim him with our whole lives.
 If we commit to walking in his ways,
 it means we will follow wherever that might take us,
 even if that becomes difficult.

Early Christians faced much persecution,
 with the fear of imprisonment or death very real.
 We are fortunate in Australia that being Christian
 does not usually bring the risk of losing our lives in a literal sense.
 However, it may mean making sacrifices,
 living differently, loving radically,
 and standing up for injustice,

We each proclaim who Jesus is by what we say about him,
 and how we live out our faith in our everyday lives.

Who do you say Jesus is?
 What does it mean for you to follow him?
 What difference does that make to your life?
 Amen

Hymn

5 - TIS #562 – "I'm not ashamed to own my Lord"

Offering

You give all good things,
 and we give in response to your generosity.
 In giving of these gifts,
 we also give ourselves,
 to live out our faith
 as we follow you.
 We pray in Christ,
 Amen.

	<p>Notices</p>
	<p>Prayers for all people</p> <p>Gracious God, We are reminded that our words have power to shape our lives and the lives of those around us. May we be careful with what we say and what we do, as we seek to live a life of faith following you. May our words and our actions be used to build up the Body of Christ and share love to those around us.</p> <p>Loving God, we pray for those who feel they have no words: for refugees and asylum seekers, for women and girls who have experienced gender based abuse, for people of colour who hear words of racism, for people with disabilities who are told they are not enough, for elderly people who are feel they are useless, for young adults who are told they are entitled, selfish, and irresponsible. May we care for each other and look out for those who cannot speak their needs.</p> <p>Healing God, we pray for the people and situations we are concerned about, as we lift them up silently before you...</p> <p>May we show love and compassion as we are able. May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing to you, Oh God. Help us to follow your ways of love and grace, and to use our words to proclaim your goodness and glory. Help us to show love in all we say and all we do. We pray in Christ, Amen.</p>
	<p>Lord's Prayer</p>
	<p>Hymn/song</p> <p>6 - TIS #595 – “O Jesus, I have promised”</p>
	<p>We are sent out</p> <p>May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing to God, may we take up our cross and follow Christ, and may the Holy Spirit empower us to proclaim our faith by our words and our deeds. Amen.</p>

	Benediction May the peace of God (Benediction) – Stuart Townend Or Aronic Blessing
	Thank you

ⁱ [*Revised Common Lectionary*](#). (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.

ⁱⁱ [*Revised Common Lectionary*](#). (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.