

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

20th September 2009

First reading

A reading from the prophet Hosea

The Lord's controversy with his people

Hosea 4:1-6

Hear the word of the Lord, O people of Israel;

for the Lord has an indictment against the inhabitants of the land.

There is no faithfulness or loyalty,
and no knowledge of God in the land.

Swearing, lying, and murder,
and stealing and adultery break out;
bloodshed follows bloodshed.

Therefore the land mourns,
and all who live in it languish;
together with the wild animals
and the birds of the air,
even the fish of the sea are perishing.

Yet let no one contend,

and let none accuse,
for with you is my contention, O priest.

You shall stumble by day;
the prophet also shall stumble with you by night,
and I will destroy your mother.

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge;
because you have rejected knowledge,
I reject you from being a priest to me.

And since you have forgotten the law of your God,
I also will forget your children.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 54

Response: *The Lord upholds my life.*

1. O God, save me by your name;
by your power uphold my cause.
O God, hear my prayer;
listen to the words of my mouth. **R.**

2. For the proud have risen against
me,
ruthless foes seek my life.
They have no regard for God. **R.**

3. But I have God for my help.
The Lord upholds my life.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart
and praise your name for it is good. **R.**

Second Reading

Jas 3:16-4:3

A reading from the letter of James

Justice is the harvest of peacemakers from seeds sown in a spirit of peace.

Where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia! God has called us with the gospel
to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Mk. 9:30-37

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

R. Glory to you Lord Christ.

*The Son of Man will be delivered into human hands . . .
If anyone wishes to be first, he must make himself the servant of all.*

Jesus and his disciples went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Christ.

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