

# 14<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – SEPTEMBER 2, 2012

## The Song of Solomon 2:8-13

The voice of my beloved!  
Look, he comes,  
leaping upon the mountains,  
bounding over the hills.  
My beloved is like a gazelle  
or a young stag.  
Look, there he stands  
behind our wall,  
gazing in at the windows,  
looking through the lattice.  
My beloved speaks and says to me:  
“Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away;  
for now the winter is past,  
the rain is over and gone.  
The flowers appear on the earth;  
the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtledove  
is heard in our land.  
The fig tree puts forth its figs,  
and the vines are in blossom;  
they give forth fragrance.  
Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away.”

## Psalms 45:1-2, 7-10

My heart is stirring with a noble song;  
let me recite what I have fashioned for the king; \*  
my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled writer.

**You are the fairest of men; \*  
grace flows from your lips,  
because God has blest you for ever.**

Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever; \*  
a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your  
realm; you love righteousness and hate iniquity.

**Therefore God, your God, has anointed you \*  
with the oil of gladness above your fellows.**

All your garments are fragrant with myrrh,  
aloes and cassia, \*  
and the music of strings from ivory palaces makes  
you glad.

**The royal daughters stand among the ladies of  
the court; \***

**on your right hand is the queen,  
adorned with the gold of Ophir.**

## 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 fulfillment 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.

## Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Now 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?" He said to them,  
"Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it  
is written,

"This people honors me with their lips, but their  
hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship

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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."

## **Collect**

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.