

LECTIONARY SUMMARIES

FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Proper 22B)

(3 October 2021)

Genesis 2:18–25

Hebrews 2:1–13 (14–18)

Mark 10:2–16

Marriage Is a Sign that Manifests the Gospel of Christ and His Church

Humanity is created in the image and likeness of God. *“It is not good that the man should be alone”* (Gen. 2:18). For the Lord Himself is a perfect communion of three Persons — the Father, Son and Holy Spirit — in one God. Therefore, *“the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs,”* which *“he made into a woman”* and brought *“to the man”* (Gen. 2:21–22). It is for this reason that *“a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh”* (Gen. 2:24; Mark 10:7). This great mystery of holy marriage signifies Christ Jesus, the incarnate Son of God, and His Bride, the Church. Divorce and all manner of adultery contradict and undermine this sign, and in doing so, they confess a false Christ and a false gospel. *“What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate”* (Mark 10:9). In truth, Christ Jesus has atoned for all such sins, and He has perfected marriage in Himself *“through suffering,”* that He might bring *“many sons to glory”* in His resurrection (Heb. 2:8–10).

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Proper 23B)

(10 October 2021)

Amos 5:6–7, 10–15

Hebrews 3:12–19

Mark 10:17–22

Christ Jesus Is the One and Only Good by Whom You Inherit Eternal Life

The Lord is the Author and Giver of life, as well as a consuming fire of judgment against all *“who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and turn aside the needy in the gate”* (Amos 5:12). *“Seek the LORD and live,”* therefore, by hating what is evil, loving what is good and doing what is just and right, according to His Word. *“And so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you”* (Amos 5:6, 14–15). Understand that *“no one is good except God alone”* (Mark 10:18). The life that you are called to live is found neither in your *“great possessions,”* nor in your good works, but only in Christ Jesus. Let go of *“all that you have”* and follow Him, even unto death, and *“you will have treasure in heaven”* (Mark 10:21–22). Do not harden your heart against His voice, nor turn away from Him, lest you *“fall away from the living God.”* Rather, hear and heed His call, cling to His Word, and *“exhort one another every day,”* that you may remain steadfast in Christ and *“firm to the end”* (Heb. 3:12–15).

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Proper 24B)

(17 October 2021)

Ecclesiastes 5:10–20

Hebrews 4:1–13 (14–16)

Mark 10:23–31

By the Voluntary Poverty of Christ, We Enter the Kingdom of God

To love and trust in earthly wealth is vanity. For nothing of this earth will last forever, nor can any of it grant eternal life (Eccl. 5:10). But the one who trusts in God is *“occupied with joy in his heart”* and is able to sleep in peace, *“whether he eats little or much,”* because he knows that the *“days of his life”* are *“the gift of God”* (Eccl. 5:12, 18–20). The person who trusts in riches cannot sleep, because he *“shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand”* (Eccl. 5:15). Therefore, it is difficult *“for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God”* (Mark 20:23). Indeed, it is impossible for man, yet *“all things are possible with God”* (Mark 20:27). Thus, the Rich Man, Jesus Christ, has made Himself poor and has gone through *“the eye of a needle,”* through death and the grave, *“to enter the kingdom of God”* on our behalf (Mark 20:24–25). He is the *“great high priest who has passed through the heavens”* (Heb. 4:14), so that we may now enter His Sabbath rest by faith in His forgiveness (Heb. 4:3–9).

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Proper 25B)

(24 October 2021)

Jeremiah 31:7–9

Hebrews 7:23–28

Mark 10:46–52

The Lord Jesus Christ Opens Our Eyes to God and Brings Us into His Presence

As He did for blind Bartimaeus, so does the Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy upon you. With His Word of the Gospel, *“he is calling you”* to Himself, to *“take heart,”* to rise up and live by faith in His forgiveness. He opens your heart and mind to see and know God rightly in Him and to follow Him *“on the way”* of the cross and into life everlasting (Mark 10:49–52). *“He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him,”* because He is the great High Priest, who offered Himself *“once for all”* as a sacrifice for sins. Since He is risen from the dead and *“exalted above the heavens,”* He *“holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever,”* and *“he always lives to make intercession”* for His people (Heb. 7:24–27). Along with that, He gathers the children of God to Himself by the proclamation of His Gospel, even *“from the farthest parts of the earth.”* In mercy He calls them, by the waters of Holy Baptism, *“in a straight path in which they shall not stumble,”* unto life everlasting (Jer. 31:8–9).

REFORMATION DAY

(31 October 2021)

Revelation 14:6–7

Romans 3:19–28

John 8:31–36 or Matthew 11:12–19

The Son of God Has Set Us Free from Sin and Death by His Grace

“Wisdom is justified by her deeds” (Matt. 11:19), and the true Wisdom of God, Christ Jesus, the incarnate Son, has justified us by His deeds. He prepares His way by the preaching of repentance, but He has suffered the violence of the Law and voluntarily handed Himself over to violent men, that we might eat and drink with Him in His kingdom and *“remain in the house forever”* (John 8:35). He is *“a friend of tax collectors and sinners”* (Matt. 11:18–19), and He has rescued us by His grace from the slavery of sin and death. By the proclamation of His eternal Gospel *“to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people”* (Rev. 14:6), *“the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law”* (Rom. 3:21), *“that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus”* (Rom. 3:26). And by the hearing of that Gospel of Christ Jesus, *“whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith”* (Rom. 3:25), *“you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free”* (John 8:31–32).