

Pentecost 14

August 25, 2024

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 16 (Year B)

The Word of the Lord is wisdom to those who believe, and yet those who are intelligent or wise by the world’s standards often do not understand it. An element of faith is necessary for interpreting God’s will among us; when we rely on our own wisdom, we end up being foolish. Jesus taught this lesson to the religious leaders who censured his followers for not following the traditions of ritual washing.



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Isaiah 29:11–19 **A Vision Like a Sealed Book**

The vision of the Lord came to the prophet, but even the learned could not comprehend it. God’s wisdom was hidden from even the wise and discerning. Israel had everything backward, said the Lord; should the potter ask the clay for advice, or the creator ask the creature for understanding?

Psalm 14 **Are There Any Who Understand the Lord?**

The psalmist sang a solemn hymn of the children of man who had turned aside from God. All had become corrupt in their nature; no one called upon the Lord anymore.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:22–33 **Sacrificial Love of Husbands and Wives**

St. Paul proclaimed that wives are to submit to husbands in the same way they submit to the Lord Jesus, who is the head of the Church. Husbands have an even greater task, the apostle declared: Husbands are to love their wives in the way Christ loved the church. Jesus gave himself unto death for the holy church. Love between two married people is to be a sacrificial love.

Gospel Reading: Mark 7:1–13 **The Problem with Human Traditions**

Jesus was cornered by some Pharisees and scribes who criticized his disciples for not properly washing their hands according to the traditions of the elders. Jesus quoted Isaiah 29:13, “This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.” Jesus taught them that their strict adherence to human traditions made the Word of God null and void.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: Green
- Use the Kyrie OR the Hymn of Praise
- Use the Apostles’ Creed
- Consider focusing on a story of a highly intelligent non-believer who came to faith through his or her work. One example is Dr. Francis Collins, who cracked the human genome code and came to believe in God. Another is C.S. Lewis, author of the “Chronicles of Narnia” series and many other books. He was baptized in the Church of Ireland but at the age of 15 became an atheist. It wasn’t until he reached his 30s that he came to Christ. His friend, author J.R.R. Tolkien, had a profound influence on his faith.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
God’s Word is Our Great Heritage	239	---	582	509	70	70
Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word	230	---	655	517	71	71
Awake, My Soul, and With the Sun	269	---	868	557	60	60
Blest Be the Tie that Binds	370	---	649	656	48	48
His Words are True	---	---	---	---	---	web
O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts	356	---	---	658	197	197
O God, Our Help in Ages Past	320	---	733	632	225	225
The Church’s One Foundation	369	---	644	654	88	88
Word of God, Come Down on Earth	---	716	545	510	---	---
Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord	226	---	637	---	---	---

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at “Hymns and Music.”

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

- Praise Song Titles:**
- Blessings (CCLI# 5897818)
 - Beautiful One (CCLI# 3915912)
 - Who You Say I Am (CCLI# 7102401)
 - Your Grace is Enough (CCLI# 4477026)
 - Jesus, We Love You (CCLI# 7030068)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.