

FIRST LESSON

Wisdom of Solomon 1:16-2:1, 12-22

The ungodly by their words and deeds summoned death;
considering him a friend, they pined away
and made a covenant with him,
because they are fit to belong to his company.

For they reasoned unsoundly, saying to themselves,
“Short and sorrowful is our life,
and there is no remedy when a life comes to its end,
and no one has been known to return from Hades.
Let us lie in wait for the righteous man,
because he is inconvenient to us and opposes our actions;
he reproaches us for sins against the law,
and accuses us of sins against our training.
He professes to have knowledge of God,
and calls himself a child of the Lord.
He became to us a reproof of our thoughts;
the very sight of him is a burden to us,
because his manner of life is unlike that of others,
and his ways are strange.

We are considered by him as something base,
and he avoids our ways as unclean;
he calls the last end of the righteous happy,
and boasts that God is his father.

Let us see if his words are true,
and let us test what will happen at the end of his life;
for if the righteous man is God’s child, he will help him,
and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries.
Let us test him with insult and torture,
so that we may find out how gentle he is,

and make trial of his forbearance.
Let us condemn him to a shameful death,
for, according to what he says, he will be protected.”

Thus they reasoned, but they were led astray,
for their wickedness blinded them,
and they did not know the secret purposes of God,
nor hoped for the wages of holiness,
nor discerned the prize for blameless souls.

Reader	The Word of the Lord
People	Thanks be to God

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 1

Beatus vir qui non abiit

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
*

nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

2 Their delight is in the law of the LORD, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.

4 It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment
comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

THE EPISTLE

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For 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.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Form II | BCP 385

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Reader I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishops Sam & Anne, for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

People Pray for the Church.

Silence

Reader I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

People Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

Reader I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

People Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

Reader I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.

People Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

Reader I ask your prayers for the departed [especially _____].

People Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Members of the congregation may ask the prayers or the thanksgivings of those present

Reader I ask your prayers for _____ .

Reader I ask your thanksgiving for _____ .
Silence

Reader Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored [especially _____ whom we remember today].

People Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.