

SCRIPTURE READINGS & HYMNS FOR MIDWEEK COMMUNION

September 1, 2021

EPISTLE READING

James 1.2-15

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

⁹ Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, ¹⁰ but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. ¹¹ For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.

¹² Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. ¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Matthew 8.23-34

¹² And it happened when He was in a certain city, that behold, a man who was full of leprosy saw Jesus; and he fell on his face and implored Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."

¹³ Then He put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately the leprosy left him. ¹⁴ And He charged him to tell no one, "But go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as a testimony to them, just as Moses commanded."

¹⁵ However, the report went around concerning Him all the more; and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities. ¹⁶ So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

LSB 770

- 1 What a friend we have in
Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often
forfeit;
Oh, what needless pain we
bear—
All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
- 2 Have we trials and
temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be
discouraged—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows
share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry
weakness—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

- 3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our
refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake
thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and
shield thee;
Thou wilt find a solace there.

TAKE TIME TO BE HOLY

HLC 392

- 1 Take time to be holy, speak oft
with thy Lord;
Abide in Him always, and feed
on His Word.
Make friends of God's children,
help those who are weak,
Forgetting in nothing His
blessing to seek.
- 2 Take time to be holy, the world
rushes on;
Spend much time in secret, with
Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus, like Him
thou shalt be;
Thy friends in thy conduct His
likeness shall see.

- 3 Take time to be holy, let Him be
thy Guide;
And run not before Him,
whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow
the Lord,
And, looking to Jesus, still trust
in His Word.
- 4 Take time to be holy, be calm in
thy soul,
Each thought and each motive
beneath His control.
Thus led by His Spirit to
fountains of love,
Thou soon shalt be fitted for
service above.