

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTCOST  
SEPTEMBER 2, 2018

**Introit**  *Psalm 51:7, 10-12;  
antiphon: v. 2*

Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,\*  
and cleanse me | from my sin!  
Purge me with hyssop, and I | shall be clean; \*  
wash me, and I shall be whit- | er than snow.  
Create in me a clean heart, | O God,\*  
and renew a right spirit with- | in me.  
Cast me not away from your | presence,\*  
and take not your Holy Spirit | from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your sal- | vation,\*  
and uphold me with a willing | spirit.  
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**  
Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,\*  
and cleanse me | from my sin!

**Gradual** *Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.*  
C **Fear the LORD, you his saints,  
for those who fear him lack nothing!  
Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
but the LORD delivers him out of them all.**

**Collect of the Day**  
O God, the source of all that is just and good, nourish in us every virtue and bring to completion every good intent that we may grow in grace and bring forth the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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## Old Testament

*Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–9*

### Moses Commands Obedience

<sup>1</sup>“And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the just decrees that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you.

<sup>6</sup>Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ <sup>7</sup>For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? <sup>8</sup>And what great nation is there, that has statutes and just decrees so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?

<sup>9</sup>“Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children’s children.”

## Epistle

*Ephesians 6:10–20*

### The Whole Armor of God

<sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup>and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; <sup>17</sup>and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, <sup>18</sup>praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, <sup>19</sup>and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

## Holy Gospel

*Mark 7:14–23*

### What Defiles a Person

<sup>14</sup>And he called the people to him again and said to them, “**Hear me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.**” <sup>17</sup>And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. <sup>18</sup>And he said to them, “**Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, <sup>19</sup>since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?**” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) <sup>20</sup>And he said, “**What comes out of a person is what defiles him. <sup>21</sup>For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, <sup>22</sup>coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.**”

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