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Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry provides on-site pastoral care and Bible discussion groups for the students, faculty, staff, and administration in the collegiate communities in and around Columbia, Missouri.



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### Next Week:

Psalm 116:1-9

Isaiah 50:4-10

James 3:1-12

Mark 9:14-29

**Bring a friend, make a friend!**

## Bible Readings for Pentecost 16B, September 9, 2018

### Psalm 146

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah!

**My soul, praise the Lord.**

<sup>2</sup>I will praise the Lord all my life;

**I will sing to my God as long as I live.**

<sup>3</sup>Do not trust in nobles,

**in a son of man, who cannot save.**

<sup>4</sup>When his breath leaves him, he returns to the ground;

**on that day his plans die.**

<sup>5</sup>Happy is the one whose help is the God of Jacob,

**whose hope is in the Lord his God,**

<sup>6</sup>the Maker of heaven and earth,

the sea and everything in them.

**He remains faithful forever,**

<sup>7</sup>executing justice for the exploited

and giving food to the hungry.

**The Lord frees prisoners.**

<sup>8</sup>The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord raises up those who are oppressed.

**The Lord loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The Lord protects resident aliens

and helps the fatherless and the widow,

**but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.**

<sup>10</sup>The Lord reigns forever;

**Zion, your God reigns for all generations.**

**Hallelujah!**

### Isaiah 35:4-7a

<sup>4</sup>Say to the cowardly:

“Be strong; do not fear!

Here is your God; vengeance is coming.

God's retribution is coming; he will save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

<sup>6</sup>Then the lame will leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy,  
for water will gush in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup>the parched ground will become a pool,  
and the thirsty land springs.

### **James 2:1-10, 14-18**

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, do not show favoritism as you hold on to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup>For if someone comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and a poor person dressed in filthy clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>if you look with favor on the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Sit here in a good place," and yet you say to the poor person, "Stand over there," or "Sit here on the floor by my footstool," <sup>4</sup>haven't you made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

<sup>5</sup>Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Didn't God choose the poor in this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>Yet you have dishonored the poor. Don't the rich oppress you and drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Don't they blaspheme the good name that was invoked over you?

<sup>8</sup>Indeed, if you fulfill the royal law prescribed in the Scripture, **Love your neighbor as yourself**, you are doing well. <sup>9</sup>If, however, you show favoritism, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the entire law, and yet stumbles at one point, is guilty of breaking it all.

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Can such faith save him?

<sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is without clothes and lacks daily food

<sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, stay warm, and be well fed," but you don't give them what the body needs, what good is it? <sup>17</sup>In the same way faith, if it doesn't have works, is dead by itself.

<sup>18</sup>But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without works, and I will show you faith by my works.

### **Mark 7:31-37**

<sup>31</sup>Again, leaving the region of Tyre, he went by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, through the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had difficulty speaking and begged Jesus to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>So he took him away from the crowd in private. After putting his fingers in the man's ears and spitting, he touched his tongue.

<sup>34</sup>Looking up to heaven, he sighed deeply and said to him, "Ephphatha!" (that is, "Be opened!"). <sup>35</sup>Immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was loosened, and he began to speak clearly. <sup>36</sup>He ordered them to tell no one, but the more he ordered them, the more they proclaimed it.

<sup>37</sup>They were extremely astonished and said, "He has done everything well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

### **Collect for Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

O Lord, let Your merciful ears be open to the prayers of Your humble servants and grant that what they ask may be in accord with Your gracious will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.