

Readings — September 13, 2015

FIRST READING — Isaiah 50:4-9a

- ⁴ The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
- ⁵ The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.
- ⁶ I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.
- ⁷ The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸ he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
- ^{9a} It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Psalm: 116:1-9

- ¹ I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,
- ² **for the LORD has given ear to me
whenever I called.**
- ³ The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;
I came to grief and sorrow.
- ⁴ **Then I called upon the name of the LORD:
“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”**
- ⁵ Gracious is the LORD and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.
- ⁶ **The LORD watches over the innocent;
I was brought low, and God saved me.**
- ⁷ Turn again to your rest, O my soul.
for the LORD has dealt well with you.
- ⁸ **For you have rescued my life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;**
- ⁹ I will walk in the presence of the LORD
in the land of the living.

Gospel: Mark 8:27-38

²⁷ Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸ And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹ He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”