Readings + 15th Sunday after Pentecost - Lect. 23 A + Sept. 6, 2026

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

First Reading Ezekiel 33:7-11

7 So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for
the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word
from my mouth, you shall give them warning
from me. 8 If I say to the wicked, "O wicked
ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak
to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the
wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I
will require at your hand. 9 But if you warn the
wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not
turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their
iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

10 Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel,
Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our
sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because
of them; how then can we live?" 11 Say to them,
As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure
in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked
turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn
back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O
house of Israel?

Psalmody Psalm 119:33-40

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and
I shall keep it to the end.
**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your
teaching; I shall keep it with all my heart.**
Lead me in the path of your commandments, for
that is my desire.
**Incline my heart to your decrees and not to
unjust gain.**
Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me
life in your way.
**Fulfill your promise to your servant, which is
for those who fear you.**
Turn away the reproach that I dread, because
your judgments are good.
**Behold, I long for your commandments; by
your righteousness enliven me.**

Second Reading Romans 13:8-14

Paul writes: 8 Owe no one anything, except to
love one another; for the one who loves another
has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, "You
shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder;
You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any
other commandment, are summed up in this
word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore,
love is the fulfilling of the law.

11 Besides this, you know what time it is, how
it is already the moment for you to wake from
sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than
when we became believers; 12 the night is far
gone, the day is near. Let us then throw off the
works of darkness and put on the armor of light;
13 let us walk decently as in the day, not in
reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and
licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.
14 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make
no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Holy Gospel Matthew 18:*(+10-14)* 15-20

Only Matthew has this section on reconciliation within the community. We will read five unassigned verses – 10-14 – to help provide context to the appointed Gospel reading.

Jesus said to the disciples: 10 "Take care that you
do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell
you, in heaven their angels continually see the
face of my Father in heaven.

12 What do you think? If a shepherd has a
hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray,
does he not leave the ninety-nine on the
mountains and go in search of the one that went
astray? 13 And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he
rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine
that never went astray.

14 So it is not the will of your Father in heaven
that one of these little ones should be lost.

15 If another member of the church sins
against you, go and point out the fault when the
two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you
have regained that one. 16 But if you are not
listened to, take one or two others along with
you, so that every word may be confirmed by the
evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If the
member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the
church; and if the offender refuses to listen even
to the church, let such a one be to you as a
Gentile and a tax collector.

18 I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on
earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you
loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 Again, I
tell you the truth, if two of you agree on earth
about anything you ask, it will be done for you by
my Father in heaven.

20 For where two or three are gathered in my
name, I am there among them."