

**+ THE WORD +**  
 Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024

**OLD TESTAMENT**

Jeremiah 11:18-20 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup>The LORD made it known to me and I knew;  
 then You showed me their deeds.

<sup>19</sup>But I was like a gentle lamb  
 led to the slaughter.

I did not know it was against me  
 they devised schemes, saying,

“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,  
 let us cut him off from the land of the living,  
 that his name be remembered no more.”

<sup>20</sup>But, O LORD of hosts, Who judges righteously,  
 Who tests the heart and the mind,  
 let me see Your vengeance upon them,  
 for to You have I committed my cause.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

**EPISTLE READING**

James 3:13-4:10 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. <sup>16</sup>For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

<sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

<sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

<sup>1</sup>What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. <sup>4</sup>You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup>Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that He has made to dwell in us”? <sup>6</sup>But He gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and He will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup>Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup>Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.