

Tuesday, May 26th

AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

BISHOP AND MISSIONARY (26 MAY 605)

COLLECT: *(Remain Standing)*

O Lord our God, who by your Son Jesus Christ called your servant Augustine to preach the Gospel to the English people: We pray that all whom you call and send may do your will, bide your time, and see your glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Proverbs 15:16-33 *(Please be seated)*

Reader: A reading from the Book of **Proverbs**.

Better is a little with the fear of the Lord
than great treasure and trouble with it.

Better is a dinner of vegetables where love is
than a fatted ox and hatred with it.

Those who are hot-tempered stir up strife,
but those who are slow to anger calm
contention.

The way of the lazy is overgrown with thorns,
but the path of the upright is a level
highway.

A wise child makes a glad father,
but the foolish despise their mothers.

Folly is a joy to one who has no sense,
but a person of understanding walks
straight ahead.

Without counsel, plans go wrong,
but with many advisers they succeed.

To make an apt answer is a joy to anyone,
and a word in season, how good it is!

For the wise the path of life leads upwards,
in order to avoid Sheol below.

The Lord tears down the house of the proud,
but maintains the widow's boundaries.

Evil plans are an abomination to the Lord,
but gracious words are pure.

Those who are greedy for unjust gain make
trouble for their households,
but those who hate bribes will live.

The mind of the righteous ponders how to
answer,
but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil.

The Lord is far from the wicked,
but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

The light of the eyes rejoices the heart,
and good news refreshes the body.

The ear that heeds wholesome admonition
will lodge among the wise.

Those who ignore instruction despise
themselves,
but those who heed admonition gain
understanding.

The fear of the Lord is instruction in wisdom,
and humility goes before honour.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 28

Reader: Let us pray together the words of **Psalm 28**.

1 O Lord, I call to you;
my Rock, do not be deaf to my cry; *
lest, if you do not hear me,
I become like those who go down to the Pit.

2 Hear the voice of my prayer when I cry out to you, *
when I lift up my hands to your holy of holies.

3 Do not snatch me away with the wicked or with the evildoers, *
who speak peaceably with their neighbors,
while strife is in their hearts.

4 Repay them according to their deeds, *
and according to the wickedness of their actions.

5 According to the work of their hands repay them, *
and give them their just deserts.

6 They have no understanding of the Lord's doings,
nor of the works of his hands; *
therefore he will break them down and not
build them up.

7 Blessed is the Lord! *
for he has heard the voice of my prayer.

8 The Lord is my strength and my shield; *
my heart trusts in him, and I have been helped;

9 Therefore my heart dances for joy, *
and in my song will I praise him.

10 The Lord is the strength of his people, *
a safe refuge for his anointed.

11 Save your people and bless your inheritance; *
shepherd them and carry them for ever.

1 Timothy 1:18-2:8 *(Please be seated)*

Reader: A reading from the First Book of **Timothy**.

I am giving you these instructions, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies made earlier about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, having faith and a good conscience. By rejecting conscience, certain persons have suffered shipwreck in the faith; among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have turned over to Satan, so that they may learn not to blaspheme.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings should be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,

who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

I desire, then, that in every place the men should pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or argument;

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Matthew 12:33-42 *(Please stand as you are able)*

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew.**

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

‘Either make the tree good, and its fruit good; or make the tree bad, and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers! How can you speak good things, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person brings good things out of a good treasure, and the evil person brings evil things out of an evil treasure. I tell you, on the day of judgement you will have to give an account for every careless word you utter; for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.’

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, ‘Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.’ But he answered them, ‘An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was for three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so for three days and three nights the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth. The people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgement with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah, and see, something greater than Jonah is here! The queen of the South will rise up at the judgement with this generation and condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon, and see, something greater than Solomon is here!’

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Christ