

## Scriptures August 25, 2024

### Second Reading

#### James 2:17-26 NRSV

<sup>17</sup> So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

<sup>18</sup> But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith without works, and I by my works will show you my faith. <sup>19</sup> You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder. <sup>20</sup> Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith without works is barren? <sup>21</sup> Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? <sup>22</sup> You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was brought to completion by the works. <sup>23</sup> Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness', and he was called the friend of God. <sup>24</sup> You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. <sup>25</sup> Likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another road? <sup>26</sup> For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

### Third Reading

#### Mark 7:1-8 NRSV

##### The Tradition of the Elders

<sup>7</sup> Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, <sup>2</sup> they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup> (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands,<sup>[a]</sup> thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup> and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it;<sup>[b]</sup> and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.<sup>[c]</sup>) <sup>5</sup> So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not live<sup>[d]</sup> according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?' <sup>6</sup> He said to them, 'Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

“This people honours me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;  
<sup>7</sup> in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.”

<sup>8</sup> You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.’

### **Mark 7:14-15 NRSV**

<sup>14</sup> Then he called the crowd again and said to them, ‘Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup> there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.’<sup>[a]</sup>

### **Mark 7:21-23 NRSV**

<sup>21</sup> For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup> adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup> All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.’