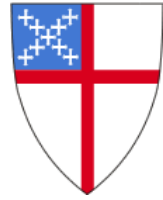


The Lessons Appointed for Use on the  
**Sunday closest to August 31**

Proper 17  
Year B  
RCL



**First Reading**

**Song of Solomon 2:8-13**

The voice of my beloved!  
Look, he comes,  
leaping upon the mountains,  
bounding over the hills.

My beloved is like a gazelle  
or a young stag.

Look, there he stands  
behind our wall,  
gazing in at the windows,  
looking through the lattice.

My beloved speaks and says to me:

"Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away;

for now the winter is past,  
the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth;  
the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtledove  
is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs,  
and the vines are in blossom;  
they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away."

1 My heart is stirring with a noble song;  
let me recite what I have fashioned for the king; \*  
my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled writer.

- 2 You are the fairest of men; \*  
    grace flows from your lips,  
    because God has blessed you for ever.
- 7 Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever, \*  
    a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom;  
    you love righteousness and hate iniquity.
- 8 Therefore God, your God, has anointed you \*  
    with the oil of gladness above your fellows.
- 9 All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia, \*  
    and the music of strings from ivory palaces makes you glad.
- 10 Kings' daughters stand among the ladies of the court; \*  
    on your right hand is the queen,  
    adorned with the gold of Ophir.

## **Second Reading**

### **James 1:17-27**

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.