

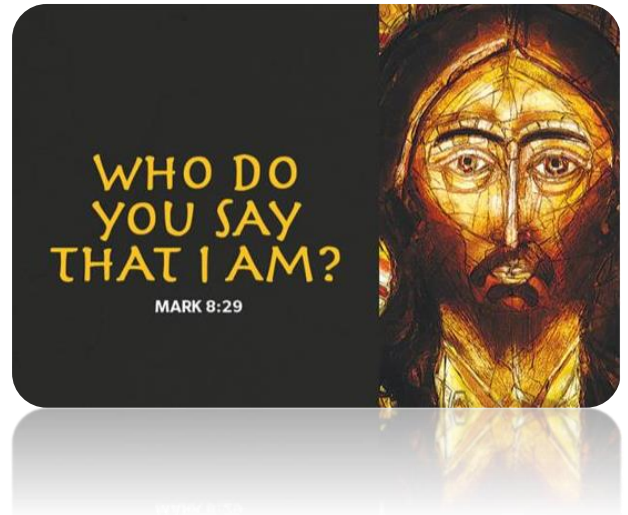
## About the Readings on Sept. 15, 2024

\*\*\*Click on the links for the Bible Verse(s)

### Sunday, September 11–17

#### Lectionary 24

More than half of today's gospel was proclaimed this year also on Lent 2. If the focus in Lent was on the coming passion of Christ, an alternate focus is on the community's living for the sake of the gospel by adopting values that seek other than "gaining the whole world," one part of which is watching our mouths. We seek the eschatological end of the sorrows of the human condition.



#### [Isaiah 50:4-9a](#)

This passage from Isaiah is appointed each year on Passion/Palm Sunday. Today it serves especially to provide metaphoric background for the New Testament descriptions of Christ's crucifixion. We are called to stand with Jesus no matter what conflicts we encounter, for we will receive God's help.

#### [The Psalm for the Day](#)

Having heard the ancient poet call for divine vindication, we join together in [Psalm 116:1-9](#), which includes several clear echoes of the passage from Isaiah. Now we have heard God's voice, we have been vindicated, and we praise God for saving us.

#### [James 3:1-12](#)

In a culture that sanctifies personal speech and regularizes satire and other types of verbal abuse, James's poignant reminder of the dangers of speaking one's own mind is timely. James relies on the Genesis 1 description of humans as created in the likeness of God to call the faithful to lives of blessing, rather than cursing.

#### [Mark 8:27-38](#)

We gather with Jesus' disciples to acclaim Jesus as the one God has anointed to save us, yet we too often prefer a human interpretation to the divine one. Many contemporary exegetes urge care that the first-century call in the face of persecution to take up one's cross ought not degenerate into the advice to seek martyrdom or to be acquiescent to conditions of misery. Rather, Christians are invited to live with countercultural values. Christians are set in the end time, the beginning of the conclusion of human suffering and injustice, which is seen first in the resurrection of Jesus.