

**Wednesday, September 11, 2019**

*Alexander Crummell, 1898 (from September 10)*

**The Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for your servant Alexander Crummell, whom you called to preach the Gospel to those who were far off and to those who were near. Raise up in this and every land evangelists and heralds of your kingdom, that your Church may proclaim the unsearchable riches of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**The First Reading**

**Ecclesiastes 2:7–11,17–18**

You who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy; do not stray, or else you may fall.  
You who fear the Lord, trust in him, and your reward will not be lost.  
You who fear the Lord, hope for good things, for lasting joy and mercy.  
Consider the generations of old and see: has anyone trusted in the Lord and been disappointed? Or has anyone persevered in the fear of the Lord and been forsaken? Or has anyone called upon him and been neglected? For the Lord is compassionate and merciful; he forgives sins and saves in time of distress. Those who fear the Lord prepare their hearts, and humble themselves before him. Let us fall into the hands of the Lord, but not into the hands of mortals; for equal to his majesty is his mercy, and equal to his name are his works.

**Psalm 19:7–11**

- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; \*  
***the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.***
- 8 The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; \*  
***the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.***
- 9 The fear of the LORD is clean and endures for ever; \*  
***the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.***
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, \*  
***sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.***
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, \*  
***and in keeping them there is great reward.***

**The Epistle****James 1:2–5**

My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you.

**The Gospel****Mark 4:1–10,13–20**

Again Jesus began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold." And he said, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables.

And he said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold."