

In words that come to be applied to Jesus, Isaiah writes: "But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET JEREMIAH [11:18-20]

It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, 'Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!' But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

The Word of the Lord.

PSALM 54 *(said by half-verse)*

- 1 Save me, O God, by your Name; *
in your might, defend my cause.
- 2 Hear my prayer, O God; *
give ear to the words of my mouth.
- 3 For the arrogant have risen up against me,
and the ruthless have sought my life, *
those who have no regard for God.
- 4 Behold, God is my helper; *
it is the Lord who sustains my life.
- 5 Render evil to those who spy on me; *
in your faithfulness, destroy them.
- 6 I will offer you a freewill sacrifice *
and praise your Name, O Lord, for it is good.
- 7 For you have rescued me from every trouble, *
and my eye has seen the ruin of my foes.

James writes of Christians who are bound by old patterns: "You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF ST. JAMES [3:13-4:3, 7-8a]

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

The Word of the Lord.