



St George's Anglican Church | Malvern

22<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY after PENTECOST

25 October 2015

**Sentence.**

The redeemed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads.  
*Isaiah 51.11*

**Collect of the day.**

O God,  
you give light to the blind and comfort to the sorrowing,  
and in your Son you have given us  
a High Priest who has offered the true sacrifice for us  
and yet can sympathise with us in our weakness:  
hear the cry of your people  
and lead us home to our true country,  
where with your Son and the Holy Spirit  
you live and reign, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen

**A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah**

*This is a song of homecoming for the exiled of Jerusalem dispersed among the nations. God promises to bring them back to Israel where the Temple will be rebuilt and pilgrimage resumed. It will be a new exodus and all, even the formerly excluded, will be among God's people. Christians believe this promise is fulfilled in Jesus Christ whose risen life is the 'new temple' and whose church is the inclusive community where all may share in God's grace.*

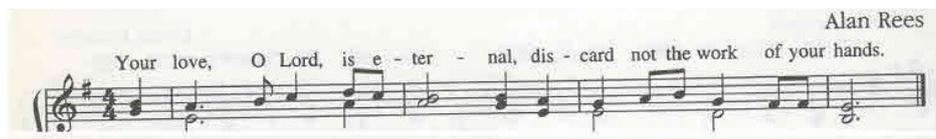
Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
'Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel.'

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
 and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
 among them the blind and the lame,  
 those with child and those in labour, together;  
 a great company, they shall return here.  
 With weeping they shall come,  
 and with consolations I will lead them back,  
 I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
 in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
 for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.  
*Jeremiah 31.7-9*

**Reader** Hear the word of the Lord

**ALL** Thanks be to God



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|---|---|
| <p>1 I thank you, Lord, with <u>all</u> my heart,<br/>         you have heard the words <u>of</u> my mouth.<br/>         Before the angels <u>I</u> will bless you.<br/>         I will adore before your <u>holy</u> temple.</p> | <p>2 I thank you for your <u>faithfulness</u> and love<br/>         which excel all we <u>ever</u> knew of you.<br/>         On the day I <u>called</u>, you answered;<br/>         you increased the strength of <u>my</u> soul.</p> |
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3 The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly,  
 and the haughty he knows from afar.

<p>Psalm 126          BA page  <b>10am</b> TiS</p>	<p>Your love, O Lord, <u>is</u> eternal,          discard not the work <u>of</u> your hands.</p>	<p>at 8am AP-  <b>319 at</b>  <b>80</b></p>
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*This song is clearly linked to the Jeremiah reading and expresses the joy of restoration to Israel. References to abundant winter rain, even in the arid regions, and a good harvest are metaphors for God's provision.*

### **A reading from the letter to the Hebrews**

*The writer stresses that the priesthood of the Jerusalem Temple (destroyed in 70AD) was provisional and temporary until the priest-*

*hood of Jesus, established by God's oath, became permanent. As our high priest he 'lives to intercede for us'. Is that not a most awesome and comforting realisation? It means that Jesus*

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but Jesus holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues for ever. Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever.

*Hebrews 7.23-28*

**Reader** May your word live in us

**ALL** **And bear much fruit to your glory**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**ALL** **Alleluia, alleluia!**

Jesus said to the blind man: 'What do you want me to do for you? The blind man said: "My teacher, let me see again.'

**ALL** **Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Reader** The Lord be with you

**ALL** **And also with you**

**Reader** A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

**ALL** **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

*This healing of a blind man contrasts with the blindness of the disciples; though he cannot see, Bartimaeus 'sees' who Jesus is and once his physical sight is restored he follows on the way. The physical way is the road to*

*Jerusalem. Jericho is in the Jordan valley, about 21 kilometres from Jerusalem. The 'way' Bartimaeus journey is towards the cross and resurrection. The spiritual blindness of the disciples, a feature of mark's gospel, will not be healed before they see Jesus suffer.*

As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed Jesus on the way

*Mark 10.46-42*

**Reader**                      For the Gospel of the Lord  
**ALL**                              **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK.**

Almighty and everlasting God, give to us the increase of faith,  
hope and love;  
and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us to love  
what you command;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**BIBLE READINGS NEXT SUNDAY**

**All Saints 8am and 10am**

Isaiah 25.6-9; Ps 24; Rev 21.1-6a; John 11. 32-44

**All Souls 5pm in the Memorial Garden** *weather permitting*

Job 14.1-14 Psalm 29 John 5.19-29

### **Pray for the Faithful Departed**

*We remember before God:* Edith Pearson, Elsie Casey, Mary Newton, Hazel Dean, Keith Garden, Phyllis Reynolds-Gill, Erina Bedford Standish, Thomas Mitchel Felgate MBE, Dorothy Wedlake, Myrtle Glasson, Harold Robinson, Ella Cornish, John Glover, Frederick King, Arthur Dickens and Peter Hooper *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

### **COMMEMORATIONS OF THE WEEK.**

#### **October 28 Simon and Jude, Apostles and martyrs.**

Simon the Zealot perhaps previously belonged to the radical Jewish sect, using guerrilla tactics to obtain the independence of Israel from Roman occupation. Jude was probably the brother of our Lord (Mk.6.3) and the author of the Letter of Jude (Jude 1.1). Nothing is known of their later lives.

#### **October 31 Martin Luther (1483-1546) and the other Continental**

Reformers. The more radical reformation in Europe differed significantly to the English reformation. Luther's German translation of the Bible is one of the masterpieces of German literature.