



St George's Anglican Church | Malvern

**Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

**15 November 2015**

**Sentence** The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to this king, and exalt the power of his anointed.

*1 Samuel 2.10*

**Collect**

O God,  
welcoming refuge for the outcast,  
and upholder of justice for the oppressed:  
maintain the hope of the poor, so that the time may soon come  
when no one need want for food and shelter,  
and all will learn to share freely  
following the example of your Son, who gave his very self;  
who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**A Reading from the first book of Daniel**

*The book of Daniel is a blend of folktale and 'apocalyptic' a type of writing widely known in Judaism from about 200BC to 200AD. It tells stories of the down throw of political powers and evil in the world in an allegorical way using complex symbolism, and was intended to encourage God's people not to fear the future. Naïve or ignorant pseudo interpretations abound, especially among tele-evangelists! This passage in Daniel is the first explicit reference in the Hebrew scriptures to the belief that the dead will be raised, the notion of a final judgment and this present, troublesome life transformed forever.*

In the third year of King Cyrus a word was revealed to Daniel. 'At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who

lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.’  
*Daniel 12.1-3*

Reader For the word of the Lord  
**All Thanks be to God**  
**Psalm 16 APBA page 234**

*This prayer of trust may have been written by a priest of the Jerusalem Temple. The psalmist's faith contrasts with the idolators who put their trust in false gods. Notice that in this early layer of scripture the dead live in 'sheol' or 'the pit' a place of half life where there is no praise of God. It contrasts with the joy of this present life. Belief in the resurrection developed over time and was still resisted by the more conservative group, the Saducees, in the time of Jesus (which made them 'sad, you see!').*

### Responsorial Psalm 16

Andrew Moore



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| 1 Preserve me, God, I take <u>refuge</u> in you.<br>I say to the Lord: 'You <u>are</u> my God.<br>O Lord, it is you who are my <u>portion</u> and cup;<br>it is you yourself who <u>are</u> my prize.'     | 3 And so my heart rejoices, my <u>soul</u> is glad;<br>even my body shall <u>rest</u> in safety.<br>For you will not leave my soul <u>among</u> the dead,<br>nor let your beloved <u>know</u> decay. |
| 2 I will bless the Lord who <u>gives</u> me counsel,<br>who even at night <u>directs</u> my heart.<br>I keep the Lord ever <u>in</u> my sight:<br>since he is at my right hand, I <u>shall</u> stand firm. | 4 O Lord, <u>you</u> will show me<br>the <u>path</u> of life,<br>the fullness of joy <u>in</u> your presence,<br>at your right hand <u>happiness</u> for ever.                                       |

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

*Hebrews contrasts the shadow or inferior form of the law with the real form, Christ's self offering on the cross. His 'sacrifice' brings to an end the daily sacrifices in the Temple (which was destroyed by the Romans in 70AD and never rebuilt). The new covenant is the full and final restoration of humanity to communion with God through the flesh – the humanity – of Jesus who was fully human and fully divine, and still is.*

Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, 'he sat down at the right hand of God', and since then has been waiting 'until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.' For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

*Hebrews 10.11-14,19-25*

Reader May your word live in us.

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

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Cantor Jesus said: "when you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed: this must take place, but the end is still to come."

**ALL 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.**

*Earlier in Mark (11.15-17) Jesus has enacted the ending of the old sacrificial system with the clearing of the traders from the Temple; now he foresees the destruction of the building itself. Here Jesus exhorts his friends not to be distracted from their faithful following of his way by distressing circumstances, even being hated for bearing his name. Christians are persecuted for their faith today. We should pray for them and speak out on their behalf. And we should be brave in our own witness to the life giving effect and wisdom of putting our trust in God made known to us in Jesus Christ.*

As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!' Then Jesus asked him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.' When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?' Then Jesus began to say to them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs. 'As for yourselves, beware; for they will hand you over to councils; and you will be beaten in synagogues; and you will stand before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them. And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations. When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say; but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

*Mk 13.1-11*

Reader     For the Gospel of the Lord

**ALL**        **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

**Bible Readings next week The Reign of Christ**

**22 Nov. 2015**

2 Samuel 23.1-7 Ps.132.1-12 Revelation1.4b-8 John 18.33-37

**Dates to note for later this month.**

**Saturday 28 Nov at 10.30am St Paul's Cathedral**

**Ordination of Priests** including The Revd Jacqui Smith.

All welcome. **Sunday 29 Nov at 10.00am St George's**

**First Presiding of new Priest**, preacher Revd Prof. Dorothy Lee.

**Prayer for the Week**

Almighty God, whose sovereign purpose none can make void:

give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, knowing that your kingdom shall come and your will be done,

to your eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Pray for the Faithful Departed**

We remember before God: Aune Smith, Florence Williams, Margaret Mercer, Nellie Nabb, Sydney Davis, Priest, Hilda Alice Spencer, Bevis Geoffrey Nicholas, Irene Bailey, Winifred Slattery, Lilian Crameri, Frances Sefton, Noel Brown, Pearl Hazewinkel *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

**Commemorations of the week**

**November 19 Elizabeth of Hungary, Queen.** (1207-1231).

Her young husband died of the plague and she, herself, died at the age of 24. Noted for her work for the sick, the poor and the elderly and for her love of poetry. **November 23**

**Clement of Rome** (d. c.100 AD) Bishop of Rome.

He wrote a letter to the Corinthians (c.96 AD), which gives valuable information on the state of the Christian ministry at that time.