



St George's Anglican Church | Malvern

Third Sunday of Easter

10 April 2016

Sentence To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever.

Revelation 5.13

Collect

Christ our friend, you ask for our love in spite of our betrayal: give us courage to embrace forgiveness, to know you again, and to trust ourselves in you. **Amen.**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

This is Luke's story of the conversion and call of Saul of Tarsus, a learned Jewish rabbi who became Paul the Apostle. Two other accounts are found in Acts 22.4-16 and 26.9-18. Paul's own account is in Galatians 1.13-17. As with any key event in our lives, understanding of its meaning develops and grows over time.

Saul, like the prophets, was chosen by God for a particular purpose – to bring the gospel to those beyond Israel. The metaphor of blindness is fascinating as an insight into how radically Paul changed his beliefs about Jesus. After his encounter he re-read the Hebrew Scriptures with new eyes.

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.'

Acts 9.1-6

Reader For the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Psalm 30 at 8am APBA, page 249 at 10am Hymn Book 18

The hope of a future resurrection is found only in some of the latest parts of the Old Testament and is absent from the psalms. When the psalmist speaks of being brought up from Sheol and restored to life, he is using metaphorical language to describe deliverance from earthly troubles (in this case probably illness).

Later Christian apologetic interpreted the psalm Christologically— the “I” who speaks becomes Christ, and the deliverance becomes his resurrection.

A reading from the book of Revelation

This is John’s vision of the heavenly liturgy, of which the liturgy of the Church on earth is a reflection. Christ is addressed as “the Lamb who was slain,” that is, the paschal lamb, a tradition going back at least to Pauls’ first letter to Corinth (1 Cor. 15). Is this actually a fragment of early Christian worship?

I, John, looked, and saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.’ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creature and elders; they numbered myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, ‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!’ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the sea, and all that is in them, singing, ‘To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever!’ And the four living creatures said, ‘Amen!’ And the elders fell down and worshipped.

Revelation 5.6-14

Reader May your word live in us,
ALL And bear much fruit to your glory.

Gospel Acclamation

ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!

I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, says the Lord, and no one shall take your joy from you.

ALL Alleluia!

Reader The Lord be with you.

ALL And also with you.

Reader A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

ALL Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Peter's threefold affirmative reply to Jesus' thrice-repeated question, "Simon Son of John, do you love me more than these?" (John 21:15, 16, 17) is correctly seen as Peter's atonement for his triple denial of Jesus (John 18:15-18, 25-27)

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.' He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know

that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.' *John 21.1-19*

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord

ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Bible Readings next week

Acts 9.36-43

Psalm 23

Fourth Sunday in Easter

Revelation 7.9-17 John 10.22-30

Prayer for the Week

Gracious Father, who in your great mercy made glad the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such awareness of his presence with us that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life, and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Pray for the Faithful Departed. We remember before God:

Robert Kither, Lawrence Krome, Lucy Beaumont Slobom, Sue Angliss, Maxwell Robinson, Arthur Carter, Lilla White, Marjorie Powell, Corrie Mark, Guy Sexton, Franz Schnelle and Margaret Oldfield
whose anniversaries occur this week.

Commemorations of the week.

April 11 George Augustus Selwyn, (1809-1878) First Bishop of New Zealand and had an important influence on the development of the New Zealand church.