



St George's Anglican Church | Malvern

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

19 June 2016

Sentence God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with Holy Spirit and with power; and he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. *Acts 10.38*

Collect

Lord, you trouble our peace,
you step upon our guarded shore and confront our chaos:
may we who are divided and colonised by the forces of death learn from
you to speak our own name
and proclaim your works of life;
through Jesus Christ, Tamer of Legions. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

This passage is a response to the preceding lament that God seems to have abandoned the people. Here God responds saying, that God was ready to be approached but the people looked elsewhere for help.

I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask,
to be found by those who did not seek me.

I said, 'Here I am, here I am',
to a nation that did not call on my name.

I held out my hands all day long
to a rebellious people,
who walk in a way that is not good,
following their own devices;

a people who provoke me
to my face continually,
sacrificing in gardens
and offering incense on bricks;

who sit inside tombs,
and spend the night in secret places;

who eat swine's flesh,
with broth of abominable things in their vessels;

who say, 'Keep to yourself,
do not come near me, for I am too holy for you.'

These are a smoke in my nostrils,

a fire that burns all day long.
See, it is written before me:
I will not keep silent, but I will repay;
I will indeed repay into their laps
their iniquities and their ancestors' iniquities together,
says the LORD;
because they offered incense on the mountains
and reviled me on the hills,
I will measure into their laps
full payment for their actions.
Thus says the LORD:
As the wine is found in the cluster,
and they say, 'Do not destroy it,
for there is a blessing in it',
so I will do for my servants' sake,
and not destroy them all.
I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,
and from Judah inheritors of my mountains;
my chosen shall inherit it,
and my servants shall settle there. *Isaiah 65.1-9*

Reader For the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Psalm 22.20-29 at 8am APBA, page

This portion of the psalm gives thanks for recovery and reintegration into the community – just as the man cured of possession experienced.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

Paul is sowing a grand vision of a new creation brought about in the individual believer through baptism. A key verse in this passage, 3.28, may be an early baptismal formula. It not only asserts there are no longer any social barriers between people but that there is neither 'male and female' since the new humanity removes gender and sexuality as determinative of who we are.

All who rely on the works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law.' Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law; for 'The one who is righteous will live by faith.' But the law does not rest on faith; on the contrary, 'Whoever does the works of the law will live by them.' Christ redeemed us from the curse

of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’ in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise. *Galatians 3.10-14, 23-29*

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

Gospel Acclamation

ALL **Alleluia! Alleluia!**
 With authority and power the Lord
 commands the unclean spirits and out they come.

ALL **Alleluia!**

Reader The Lord be with you

ALL **And also with you**

Reader A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

ALL **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Asking the possessed man his name, which he says is Legion (5,000 troops in the Roman army, suggesting a horde of demons), not only gives insight into the depth of his human suffering, it gives knowledge and advantage to Jesus who sends ‘them’ to the abyss where they are banished but still under God’s control. Luke is showing Jesus as having the same authority over human life that belongs to God. Jesus and his disciples arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, ‘What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me’— for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with*

chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, 'What is your name?' He said, 'Legion'; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, 'Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.' So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him. *Luke 8.26-29*

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

Bible Readings next week Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
1 Ki. 19.15-16, 19-21 Psalm 16 Galatians 5.1,13-25 Lk 9.51-62

Prayer for the Week Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, save through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

Pray for the Faithful Departed

We remember before God: Kristina Smith, Edward Butler, Colin Wilkinson, Noel Wilkinson, Nicholas Sanderson, Frederick Blundell Preston Minchin, Ada Mavis Phillips, T. Harvey Barnett, Myra McSpedden, Brenda Dawson *whose anniversaries occur this week.*