



St George's Anglican Church | Malvern

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

**17 July 2016**

**Sentence** In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and trust shall be your strength.  
*Luke 6.31,35*

**Collect.**

God of unnatural wisdom,  
you gave us Jesus our Rabbi to question the roles we play,  
and the submissions we enforce:  
may your living truth free us from the lie of exclusion  
and makes us all learners and doers of your word;  
through Jesus Christ, teacher and liberator. **Amen.**

**A reading from the book of Genesis.**

*God has earlier promised to make Abraham the father of a great nation, yet Abraham has no heir, except his son Ishmael born to his wife Sarah's slave-girl Hagar. Now, though they are both very old, these strangers to whom Abraham offers traditional hospitality, promise Abraham that Sarah will bear a son, Isaac.*

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, 'My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.' So they said, 'Do as you have said.' And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, 'Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.' Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. They said to him, 'Where is your wife Sarah?' And he said, 'There, in the tent.' Then one said, 'I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.'

Reader     For the word of the Lord  
All         **Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 15 APBA, page 234**

*This is a song for entrance into the Temple ('tabernacle' being a traditional image for God's house of prayer). The moral qualities required are right deeds and truthful speaking.*

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians**

*Paul's vision is a grand one: Christ is supreme over all creation; no one else can deliver humanity from the thrall of evil. The first part of this reading is an early hymn, see the Green Payer Book, p 420 where it is in canticle form for Saturday morning prayer.*

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him— provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is

he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me.

*Colossians 1.15-29*

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

**Gospel Acclamation**

**ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!**  
I say this for your own benefit,  
to promote devotion to the Lord.

**ALL Alleluia!**  
Reader The Lord be with you

**ALL And also with you**  
Reader A reading from the holy gospel according to St Luke  
**ALL Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

*In this story, Jesus admonishes Martha's distraction, not her activity. Mary's 'part' is her focus on Jesus which no one and nothing can take from her. It is easy to allow conventional roles or making ourselves busy to keep us from what is essential – our relationship with God through Jesus.*

As Jesus and his disciples went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

*Luke 10.38-42*

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

**Bible Readings next week      Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
Genesis 18.20-32   Ps 138   Colossians 2.6-15   Luke 11.1-13

**Prayer for the Week**

O God, you alone can order our unruly wills and affections: teach us to love what you command, and to desire what you promise, that, among the changes and chances of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Pray for the Faithful Departed**

We remember before God:   John Righetti, William Alfred, Harold Adcock, Ernestine Lobb, Florence Nelson, John Davis, Roma Simmons, Roma Florence Bruce, Jack Lusby Burns, Susan Moody, Leigh Manning, John Pritchard, Jeannie Ferguson, Mary Sexton  
*whose anniversaries occur this week.*

**Commemorations of the week**

**July 22 Mary Magdalene.** With Mary and Martha of Bethany, this Mary from Magdala in the Galilee was one of the women disciples of Jesus. With Jesus for most of his ministry, she was the first witness of the resurrection, and given the honoured title Apostle to the Apostles.



An Afternoon with The Very Rev'd Greg Jenks  
Dean of St George's College Jerusalem  
St Oswald's Church, High Street, Glen Iris  
Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup> 2016 from 2.00 pm  
RSVP August 6<sup>th</sup>  
Irwin Faris, [ifaris@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ifaris@optusnet.com.au)  
Afternoon Tea \$10

*Insert (A)*

**When Jesus went to Bethany**

When Jesus went to Bethany  
for Martha's hospitality,  
she made him welcome in her home,  
for she was sure the Christ had come.

When Jesus went to Bethany.  
there Martha studied eagerly.  
She knelt to wash his feet, and poured  
her precious ointment for the Lord

When Jesus went to Bethany,  
two sisters loved him faithfully.  
May we, like them, both learn and serve,  
and fill this household with our love.

*Words: Elizabeth J Smith  
Suggested music: Eisenach (AHB 75)  
Or Tallis' Canon (AHB 357)*



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*Insert (B)*

**We are the people that God has called**

We are the people that God has called  
to live in a family,  
to share our good and troubled times,  
our dreams and our history.

And God is our father and mother and friend,  
and Jesus our brother, whose love we can't end,  
and the Spirit has countless blessings to send -  
this household, the church, means love.

There's no one pattern we all must fit  
when family life is formed;  
God shapes the love in every home  
till every heart is warmed.  
For God uses grandparents, daughters, and sons,  
and lovers, and spouses, and single ones,  
and through all of our caring, God's caring runs -  
this household, the church, means love.

A family needs a meal to share,  
a table, an open door,  
a story to tell of Jesus' life,  
a longing to love God more.  
And God is the one who will shelter and feed,  
forgive us, and welcome, and teach, and lead,  
so sing and be thankful: God meets our need -  
this household, the church, means love.

*Words: Elizabeth J Smith  
Suggested music: Grand Isle (AHB551)*



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