



Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

24 July 2016

Sentence.

Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.

Luke 11.9

Collect.

Lord of gifts, share with us a hunger for the bread of your kingdom; give to us a yearning impatience with injustice; free us from clinging to debts gone bad; teach us to pray with honesty in words filled with earth and lit by desire, through Jesus, whose whole life hallows your name.

Amen.

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Sodom is a legendary city in the Dead Sea area, often paired with Gomorrah, and remembered as an evil city because of its refusal of hospitality. In this story Abraham, who has shown hospitality earlier to three strangers, bargains with God for the city (where his kinsman Lot lives) but fails to avert disaster when the men of Sodom prove abusive. It is a theological reflection on God's righteous anger; but isn't that really human anger attributed to God?

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre and said, 'How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know.'

So the men turned from there, and went towards Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. Then Abraham came near and said, 'Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?' And the LORD said, 'If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.' Abraham answered, 'Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?' And he said, 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.' Again he spoke to him, 'Suppose forty are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of forty I will not do it.' Then he said, 'Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak.

Suppose thirty are found there.'

He answered, 'I will not do it, if I find thirty there.' He said, 'Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.'

He answered, 'For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.' Then he said, 'Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.'

Genesis 18.20-32

Reader Hear the word of the Lord

ALL Thanks be to God

Psalm 138 APBA, page 369

This psalm is the first of the concluding collection (138-145) of songs in praise of the Temple as the place where God is praised by both kings and the lowly.

A reading from Paul's letter to the Colossians.

Paul urges the Colossian Christians not to be swayed by false teaching but to remain focussed on Christ as of first importance, and not secondary matters, and to trust that spiritual growth will result only from adherence to Christ.

Brothers and sisters, as you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it. Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs

to Christ. Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.

Colossians 2.6-19

Reader May your word live in us.

ALL And bear much fruit to your glory.

Gospel Acclamation

ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!

If in my name you ask for anything,
says the Lord, I will do it.

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.

The pattern of prayer Jesus teaches, now exclusively prayed by Christians, is thoroughly Jewish and relates to everyday life. In the following teaching, Jesus is urging persistence and trust in God's good purposes.

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.'

And he said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him." And he answers from within, "Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything." I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. 'So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be

opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

Luke 11.1-13

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord.

ALL Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Bible Readings next week 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Eccl. 1.2, 12-14; 12.18-23 Ps. 49.1-12 Col. 3.1-11 Lk. 12.13-21

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK O God, the protector of all that trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy, that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we finally lose not the things eternal. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Pray for the Faithful Departed

We remember before God:

Lawrence Stokes, Isambard Corless, Iris Menck, Russell Myers, Alys Prout-Webb, Frederick Theobald, Charlotte Schnelle, Dorothy (Doree) Gibbons, Viola Gaskell, Michael Robinson, Peter Frederick Moss and John Stevenson *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

COMMEMORATIONS OF THE WEEK.

July 25 James Apostle and Martyr. Brother of John and close to Jesus and one of the three present at the Transfiguration and in Gethsemane. There is a legend that he went to Spain. He was martyred by Herod (Acts.12.2)

July 26 Anne, traditionally named as the mother of the Virgin Mary. No historical details of her life are known, but with the increasing recognition the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Middle Ages, Anne also became prominent. Mary's parents, Anne and Joachim have been a frequent subject in art.

July 29 Mary and Martha of Bethany. Close friends of Jesus and Jesus usually stayed with them when he visited Jerusalem, Bethany being close to the city. Martha, with Peter, recognised Jesus as the Son of God.

July 30 William Wilberforce (1759-1833). Social reformer, especially in abolition of the slave trade.