



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

28 August 2016

Sentence All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. *Luke 14.11*

Collect.

Inviting God,
laying open your table to the deviant and deranged,
setting a place for the foreign and unwanted:
Overturn our tables of power and teach us to receive bread
from strange and wounded hands; through Jesus Christ,
the One given for all. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

Anyone who thinks the scriptures are no longer relevant has not read the book of Proverbs. This collection of sayings focus on practical values for living a good and worthwhile life, acknowledging that the fear of – read proper respect and love of God - is the beginning of wisdom and that folly, the refusal to live as God instructs us, leads to the diminishment of life and worse. This wisdom is echoed by Jesus in his parable in today's gospel reading.

Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great;
for it is better to be told, 'Come up here',
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble. *Prov. 81.2-7*

Reader For the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Psalm 112 APBA, page 344

This psalm also contrasts the consequences of living wisely or foolishly.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

*The letter concludes with these practical instructions for living in Christian community. The reference to entertaining angels reminds us that when Abraham welcomed three visitors he was told that he would be given a son—even though he and Sarah were old. The strangers were God’s messengers. Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honour by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, ‘I will never leave you or forsake you.’ So we can say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?’ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. *Hebrews 13.1-8, 15-16**

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

Gospel Acclamation

ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!
 The least among you is the greatest, say the Lord.

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

Jesus is not merely repeating the advice of Proverbs about taking a humble seat and hoping to be moved higher when invited to a dinner. This is a parable and points to a great reversal of the way we see things which God will bring about when all are welcomed including those we would never have allowed under our roof.

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. 'When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, "Give this person your place", and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher"; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.' He said also to the one who had invited him, 'When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'

Luke 14.1, 7-14

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord

ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Bible Readings next week 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Deut. 30.15-20; Psalm 1; Philemon 1-25; Luke 14.25-35

Prayer for the Week.

This prayer is found in the Gelasian Sacramentary, a very early collection of prayers in the western Church and came to us in English translation in 1549 in the translations and revisions of Thomas Cranmer who crafted the Book of Common Prayer.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Pray for the Faithful Departed. We remember before God: Ray Pritchard, Catriona Elizabeth Scott, Clifford Smith, Clifford Searby, Rose MacPherson, John Sanderson, Burnice Furzer, Joseph Farrington, Winifred McConnell and Marjorie Watson, *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

Commemorations of the week

August 29 Beheading John the Baptist (Mk.6.14-29; Mt.14.1-12; Lk.9.7-9) **August 31 John Bunyan**, preacher and spiritual writer (1628-1688). Best known for *Pilgrim's Progress* (the most popular Christian book after the bible) **August 31 Aidan of Lindisfarne**, bishop and missionary (d.651). A monk at Iona, missionary to the English and later first abbot of Lindisfarne. **September 2 The martyrs of New Guinea** (d. 1942 during the Japanese invasion) **September 3 Gregory of Rome**, bishop and teacher (540-604), one of the greatest of the early Popes. Sent Augustine of Canterbury to England. **September 3 Eliza Darling**, pioneer social reformer in NSW (d. 1868).

Did you know?

Each week the Church remembers those whose faith and work has made them shining examples for us to emulate. Aidan of Lindisfarne is one we will remember this coming week. He was a monk in northern England who founded the monastery on the island of Lindisfarne in 635 and the community lived there through Viking raids and other calamities until 1537 when King Henry VIII suppressed England's religious houses. Today the beautiful priory is only a ruin but the spiritual life of the island continues in retreats and quiet days. It was here that the magnificent illuminated book known as the Lindisfarne Gospels, now in the British Library, was made. Aidan lived a simple life but changed the lives of both ordinary people and the king of Northumbria alike. Now in the presence of God whose face Aidan longed to see, we can invite Aidan to pray with us and for us today.



