



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

4 September 2016

Sentence Whoever does not carry the cross and follow Jesus cannot be his disciple.
Luke 14.27

Collect

Jealous God, you call us to hate the life that is an echo of death,
and a whisper of fear:
give us courage to pass through shadows
and count the cost of a love beyond measure;
through Jesus Christ, the one who is fully alive. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

This passage warns that there is no life worth living outside the covenant God has made with the people. In the ancient near east 'loving' meant acting loyally towards God and God's people (the Hebrews' own kin) and honouring the commitments made by the people just as God honours his side of the covenant.

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve

them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. *Deut. 30. 15-20*

Reader For the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Psalm 1. APBA, 224

This wisdom song, placed at the beginning of the book of psalms, signals that the collection is a guide to divine instruction for living well as God intends for humanity.

A reading of the letter of Paul to Philemon.

Paul is writing from prison. Today's reading is the complete letter. The letter is to accompany Onesimus (a slave) but it is not really clear what Paul wants the slave's master to do –receive him back with forgiveness for past wrongs or free him as well since he has become a Christian. Perhaps Philemon did that and is why the letter has been preserved.

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow-soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith towards the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to

you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a slave but as more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. One thing more—prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping through your prayers to be restored to you.

Epaphras, my fellow-prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow-workers. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit *Philemon 1-25*

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

Gospel Acclamation

ALL **Alleluia! Alleluia!**
Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me,
cannot be my disciple.

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**

These well known sayings of Jesus all concern the costs of discipleship and

urge Jesus' followers to be totally devoted to God through him.

Large crowds were travelling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, 'Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions. 'Salt is good; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure heap; they throw it away. Let anyone with ears to hear listen!'

Luke 14.25-35

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord

ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Bible Readings next week 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 32.7-14 Psalm 51.1-10 1 Tim 1.1-2,12-19a Luke 15.1-10

Prayer for the Week

O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and so great dangers that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Pray for the Faithful Departed We remember before God: Charles Gregory, Doreen Wagstaff, Ruth Olver, Violet Smith, Timothy Malloch, Frederick Stanes, Lillie Gillanders, Richard Robinson Belshaw, John (Jock) Mackenzie, May Hardy, Helen Pepperell, Margaret Ann Findlay-Hughes, Leslie Lyons, William Jarvie, Alan Hain, Lorna Tickner *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

Commemorations of the week

September 8 Birth of Mary, mother of our Lord. Although nothing is known about the birth of Mary from the scriptures, this celebration is a theological statement about God's choosing Mary and preparing her for her unique vocation even from before her birth. From the earliest times Mary's mother is called Anne and her father Joachim.

