



ST. LUKE, EVANGELIST & MARTYR *transferred* 16 October 2016

Sentence The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few;
ask therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his
harvest. *Luke 76.8*

Collect

God of the gathering storm,
calling us to announce the nearness of your rule:
we praise you for the good news of Luke,
for stories of searching love, and grace found in the foreigner;
of women of strength and rebellion
and men called from the margins;
may we be bearers of that word to a world hungry for you; through
Jesus Christ, our Lord, who feasted with sinners.

Amen.

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah

The balm of Gilead was resin from the Styrax tree, widely used for medicinal purposes. God is heartbroken by the lies and deceit of the people who know better but fail to follow God's path. Jeremiah is speaking into a political context where the fall of Jerusalem to Babylonian invaders in 597 BC was imminent.

Is there no balm in Gilead?

Is there no physician there?

Why then has the health of my poor people
not been restored?

O that my head were a spring of water,
and my eyes a fountain of tears,
so that I might weep day and night
for the slain of my poor people!

O that I had in the desert
a traveller's lodging-place,
that I might leave my people

and go away from them!
For they are all adulterers,
a band of traitors.
They bend their tongues like bows;
they have grown strong in the land for falsehood, and not for truth;
for they proceed from evil to evil,
and they do not know me, says the LORD. *Jeremiah 8.22-9.3*

Reader For the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Psalm 145.10-18 APBA p.376

This song of praise is an acrostic poem in the original Hebrew and is a joyous expression of God's wonderful deeds.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy

This letter is very personal and directed to Timothy, Paul's companion in ministry. These closing words demonstrate Paul's endurance for the gospel and hope in the face of certain martyrdom (the lion's mouth was a common Hebrew reference to a violent death.) Notice Luke's faithfulness.

Do your best to come to me soon, for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message.

At my first defence no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

2 Timothy 4.9-17a

Reader May your word live in us

All And bear much fruit to your glory.

Gospel Acclamation

All **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Cantor No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

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.**

Known as the mission of the seventy, this whole account of Jesus sending out his disciples is replete with biblical imagery. They are to go in peace and be people of peace preparing the way for Jesus to go where he intends to go.

The Lord appointed seventy* others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." *Lk.10.1-9*

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord

ALL **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Prayer for the Week Almighty God, your Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A prayer for these times. (from the Anglican Communion Office in London) Lord God, we live in disturbing days: across the world, prices rise, debts increase, banks collapse, jobs are taken away, and fragile security is under threat. Loving God, meet us in our fear and hear our prayer: be a tower of strength amidst the shifting sands, and a light in the darkness; help us receive your gift of peace, and fix our hearts where true joys are to be found, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings next week 23rd Sun. after Pentecost 23 Oct. 2016
Jeremiah 14.7-10, 19-22; Psalm 84.1-7; 2 Timothy 4.6-8, 16-18;
Luke 18.15-30

Pray for the Faithful Departed *We remember before God,*
Cyril Horsburgh, April Powell, Edward Hughes, Mary Evelyn Street,
Jessie Jones, Ulysses Richards, Thomas Belcher, Leslie Russell,
Eleanor Krome, Florence Richards, Keith Emmerson, Elaine Meyer,
Patricia Elizabeth Belshaw and Edna Valentine *whose anniversaries
occur this week.*

Commemorations of the week

October 17 Ignatius of Antioch (d. c.107 AD) Bishop in Antioch and martyred in Rome. Like Paul, taken to Rome as a prisoner during Roman persecutions. He wrote seven letters which are important testimonies to early Christianity.

October 18 Luke the Evangelist and Martyr. A Greek physician and companion of Paul on the latter's missionary journeys. Author of the third Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. He had a special interest in the poor, disadvantaged, women and the outcastes, making his Gospel a story of Jesus as the lover of the people on the fringes of society.

October 19 Henry Martyn (1781-1812). One of the great Anglican missionaries to the Middle East. He translated the Christian scriptures into Hindi, Persian, and Arabic.

Processional

Saint Luke, beloved physician,
with honour now recall,
who served his Master's mission,
who ministered to Paul;
whose skill to distant ages
bequeathed a gift unpriced,
a gospel in whose pages
we see the face of Christ.

He tells for us the stories
of Jesus here on earth,
the unsung pains and glories
that marked the church's birth;
the Spirit's power in preaching,
the contrite sinner freed,
the grace and mercy reaching
our deepest human need.

For all who work our healing
we lift our hearts in prayer,
the love of God revealing
in science, skill and care:
his gifts be still imparted
to those who make us whole,
like Luke the tender-hearted,
physician of the soul.

Gradual

If you can use the church, O God,
to wake a sleeping world again,
transforming apathy to hope -
then use us; we are yours to send.

If you can use the church's voice
to tell the truth in spite of fear,
to cry for justice, please for peace -
then have us speak, that all may hear.

If you can use the church to heal
the broken-hearted, and to be
a home for everyone who comes -
then make us that community.

All things are possible with you.
Our flawed and human church can be
Christ's body, by your grace, O God -
so help us do Christ's ministry.