



Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

23 October 2016

Sentence

Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it. *Luke 18.17*

Collect

O God, who alone can probe the depths of the heart, you hear the prayer of the humble and justify the repentant sinner: grant us the gift of humility, that, seeing our own faults clearly, we may refrain from judging our neighbour but rely solely upon your saving grace. We make our prayer through your Son, our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

This lament begins with the people acknowledging that they have brought upon themselves the consequences of ignoring God but they plead their case with God and express confidence in God's ability to deliver them from trouble. Jeremiah spoke in the last years before the siege of Jerusalem and its destruction by Babylon in 586BC. Many leaders were taken into exile and Jeremiah fled to Egypt.

Although our iniquities testify against us,
act, O LORD, for your name's sake;
our apostasies indeed are many,
and we have sinned against you.
O hope of Israel,
its saviour in time of trouble,
why should you be like a stranger in the land,
like a traveller turning aside for the night?
Why should you be like someone confused,
like a mighty warrior who cannot give help?
Yet you, O LORD, are in the midst of us,
and we are called by your name;

do not forsake us!
Thus says the LORD concerning this people:
Truly they have loved to wander,
they have not restrained their feet;
therefore the LORD does not accept them,
now he will remember their iniquity
and punish their sins.
Have you completely rejected Judah?
Does your heart loathe Zion?
Why have you struck us down
so that there is no healing for us?
We look for peace, but find no good;
for a time of healing, but there is terror instead.
We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD,
the iniquity of our ancestors,
for we have sinned against you.
Do not spurn us, for your name's sake;
do not dishonour your glorious throne;
remember and do not break your covenant with us.
Can any idols of the nations bring rain?
Or can the heavens give showers?
Is it not you, O LORD our God?
We set our hope on you,
for it is you who do all this.

Jer. 14.7-10, 19-22

Reader For the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Psalm 84.1-7 at 8am APBA, page 310

This is a song to be sung walking towards Jerusalem and expresses the longing of pilgrims to see the beauty of the Temple.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

Paul is looking ahead to his impending death and uses imagery drawn from athletics to imagine receiving positive judgment from the Lord at his second coming, Paul's understanding of 'the day of the Lord'. Paul is urging Timothy to trust that God will give him strength just as God has given Paul.

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. 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. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

2 Tim. 4.6-8, 16-18

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

Gospel Acclamation

ALL **Alleluia! Alleluia!**
 What is impossible for mortals,
 is possible for 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**

I am always struck that it was the disciples who tried to keep Jesus and the children apart! The other striking thing in this passage is that Jesus allows that rich young man to walk away and does not bargain. He left that young man to discover for himself the deadening consequences of his self satisfaction. Let's trust he did. If a camel were to go through the eye of a needle it would not be without change to the camel!

People were bringing even infants to Jesus that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. But Jesus called for them and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.'

A certain ruler asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit

eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honour your father and mother." ' He replied, 'I have kept all these since my youth.' When Jesus heard this, he said to him, 'There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' But when he heard this, he became sad; for he was very rich. Jesus looked at him and said, 'How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' Those who heard it said, 'Then who can be saved?' He replied, 'What is impossible for mortals is possible for God.' Then Peter said, 'Look, we have left our homes and followed you.' And he said to them, 'Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not get back very much more in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.'

Lk 18.15-30

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord

ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Bible Readings next week 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 1.10-18 Ps. 32.1-8 2 Thess. 1.1-4,11-12 Luke 19.1-10

Prayer for the Week Almighty and everlasting God, give to us the increase of faith, hope and love; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us to love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Pray for the Faithful Departed. We remember before God: Nellie Johnson, James Cunningham, Frank Nelson, Eric Dalton, Edith Pearson, Elsie Casey, Mary Newton, Hazel Dean, Keith Garden, Phyllis Reynolds-Gill, Erina Bedford Standish, Thomas Mitchel Felgate and Dorothy Wedlake *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

Commemorations of the week

October 24 United Nations, inaugurated 1945.

October 28 Simon and Jude, Apostles and martyrs. Simon the Zealot perhaps previously belonged to the radical Jewish sect, using guerrilla tactics to obtain the independence of Israel. Jude was probably the brother of our Lord (Mk.6.3) and the author of the Letter of Jude (Jude 1.1). Nothing is known of their later lives.

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.