



Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

30 October 2016

**Sentence** Today salvation has come to this house, for the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost. *Luke 19.10*

### **Collect**

Just and merciful God,  
true Lord of every house, sure delight of every heart,  
come into our midst today  
to speak your word and satisfy our hunger.  
Enable us to see you clearly, to welcome you with joy,  
and to give justice and mercy a place in our lives.  
Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
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 Isaiah.**

*The prophets used the names of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah as bywords for divine judgement on immoral conduct. Here Isaiah protests against the people worshipping without that leading to social justice. Spirituality divorced from a care for others is not worth anything. Integrity comes from worship of God which leads to acts of redress and compassion.*

Hear the word of the LORD,  
you rulers of Sodom!  
Listen to the teaching of our God,  
you people of Gomorrah!  
What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?  
says the LORD;  
I have had enough of burnt-offerings of rams

and the fat of fed beasts;  
I do not delight in the blood of bulls,  
or of lambs, or of goats.  
When you come to appear before me,  
who asked this from your hand?  
Trample my courts no more;  
bringing offerings is futile;  
incense is an abomination to me.  
New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation—  
I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.  
Your new moons and your appointed festivals  
my soul hates;  
they have become a burden to me,  
I am weary of bearing them.  
When you stretch out your hands,  
I will hide my eyes from you;  
even though you make many prayers,  
I will not listen;  
your hands are full of blood.  
Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;  
remove the evil of your doings  
from before my eyes;  
cease to do evil,  
learn to do good;  
seek justice,  
rescue the oppressed,  
defend the orphan,  
plead for the widow.  
Come now, let us argue it out,  
says the LORD:  
though your sins are like scarlet,  
they shall be like snow;  
though they are red like crimson,  
they shall become like wool.      *Isaiah 7.76-18.*

Reader      For the word of the Lord

**All            Thanks be to God**

## **Psalm 32.1-8 APBA, 252**

*This psalm assumes that suffering and seeking God in that time will bring transformation, that is, a growing into a fuller humanity and deeper relationship with God. When it comes to understanding the connections between illness and psyche, we do well to look to spiritual healers as well as physicians.*

### **A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.**

*Both letters to Thessalonica urge Christians to stand firm when opposed. This second letter implies that 'the Day of the Lord', a time of judgment is not imminent so it is important to be steadfast.*

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

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

We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring. To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfil by his power every good resolve and work of faith, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*2 Thessalonians 1.1-4,11-12*

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

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**ALL         Alleluia! Alleluia!**

The Son of Man came to seek out  
and save the lost.

**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**

*Jericho was an important customs collection centre and Zacchaeus was rich at the expense of his fellow Jews who despised him. The last verse is a summary of Jesus' whole purpose – humanity 'lost' to God by wrongdoing is saved by the 'visit' of Jesus.*

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax-collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.' So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, 'He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.' Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, 'Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.'

*Luke 19.1-10*

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord

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

**Bible Readings next week All Saints/All Souls transferred**

Daniel 7.1-3, 15-18 Ps. 149 Ephesians 1.11-23 Luke 6.20-31

### **Prayer for the Week**

God our Father, whose will it is to bring all things to order and unity in our Lord Jesus Christ: may all the peoples of the world, now divided and torn apart by sin, be brought together under his sovereign rule of love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Pray for the Faithful Departed**

We remember before God: Myrtle Glasson, Harold Robinson, Ella Cornish, John Glover, Frederick King, Arthur Dickens, Peter Hooper, Paul Grainger-Smith, Hugh Were, Irish Ingham and Daphne Howard *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

## **Commemorations of the week**

**October 31 Martin Luther** (1483-1546) and the other Continental Reformers. We are heirs in part to the continental reformation as to other earlier and later movements of reform in the church. Luther's German translation of the Bible is one of the masterpieces of German literature.

**November 1 All Saints.** We live in fellowship, not only with Christians living now, but with a vast array of the saints of the past, who have been such an inspiration to us. This is the "communion of saints" of the Creed.

**November 2 All Souls.** This is the counterpart to All Saints Day. John says "What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the life of all people". This has implications for our attitude to members of other religions and people of no religious faith.

**November 3 Richard Hooker** (1554-1600) Anglican theologian. In 1594 he published his great work, "The Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity, which has given emphasis and direction to the Anglican way of being a Christian.

**November 4** Day for Anglicans and Roman Catholics to pray for one another.

*Offertory Hymn (at 10:00am)*

Great God, your love has called us here  
as we, by love, for love were made.  
Your living likeness still we bear,  
though marred, dishonoured, disobeyed.  
We come, with all our heart and mind,  
your call to hear, your love to find.

We come with self-inflicted pains  
of broken trust and chosen wrong;  
half-free, half-bound by inner chains;  
by social forces swept along,  
by powers and systems close confined;  
yet seeking hope for humankind.

Great God, in Christ you call our name  
and then receive us as your own  
not through some merit, right, or claim,  
but by your gracious love alone.  
We strain to glimpse your mercy seat  
and find you kneeling at our feet.

Then take the towel, and break the bread,  
and humble us, and call us friends.  
Suffer and serve till all are fed,  
and show how grandly love intends  
to work till all creation sings,  
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

Great God, in Christ you set us free,  
your life to live, your joy to share.  
Give your Spirit's liberty  
to turn from guilt and dull despair  
and offer all that faith can do  
while love is making all things new.

*Words: Brian Wren  
Words © 1977, rev. 1995 by  
Hope Publishing Co.,  
Carol Stream, IL 60188.*