



Third Sunday After Pentecost

25 June 2017

Sentence

Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for Jesus' sake will find it. *Matthew 10.39*

Collect

God of truth uncovered, you trace the sparrow's flight,
and plumb the secret places of the heart:
bring our fear and conflict
into the light of your presence;
help us to lose our hollow life and find our way to you;
through Jesus Christ, the master and slave. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Genesis contains many stories of origins, including the saga of Abraham and his clan. Here, Abraham sends his son Ishmael away (the boy was born by surrogacy to Sarah's slave woman Hagar, but God promises to bless him through both sons. This story forms part of the founding narrative of Islam.

The child Isaac grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom Hagar had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, 'Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.' The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, 'Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named after you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.' So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and

sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, 'Do not let me look on the death of the child.' And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, 'What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.' Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt. *Gen 21.8-21*

Reader Hear the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Psalms 86.1-10 at 8am APBA page 312

A prayer of deliverance from enemies.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Chapter 6 of this letter tells us that life in Christ requires obedience (listening). Paul asserts that we must all 'obey' something or someone – that is to say, give our attention and best energies to it. For the baptised this focus is to be on Christ with whom we have already died to sin and been raised to a new way of life.

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by

the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6. 1-11

Reader May your word live in us

All And bear much fruit to your glory.

Gospel Acclamation

All Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Lord says, "Those who find their life will lose it:
and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

All Alleluia!

Reader The Lord be with you

ALL And also with you

Reader A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

ALL Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus is sending his disciples out into the community which is hostile to his teachings. Jesus' presence brings division within families but he urges us not to be afraid because one day what now looks like obstinacy or even arrogance will be seen as a faithful following of the one God sent.

Jesus summoned the twelve and sent them out with the following instruction: 'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! 'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing

secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the rooftops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. 'Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. 'Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. *Mtt 10.24-39*

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord

ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Prayer for the Week.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, save through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

Bible Readings next week Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 22.1-14 Ps13 Romans 6.12-23 Matthew 10.40-42

Pray for the Faithful Departed

We remember: Jill Slattery, Montolieu (Mon) Russell, Frank Townsend, *Priest*, Amelia Corless, Robert Farquharson, John Hilsberg, Helen Cotton, Leonard Newton, Bill McSpedden, *Priest*, Roberta Frost, Daphne (Bon) Chandler *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

Commemorations of the week.

June 27 Cyril of Alexandria, bishop and teacher (c. 376-444).

The most outstanding theologian produced by the diocese of Alexandria, Cyril defended orthodox faith against various disputed positions. **June 28 Irenaeus of Lyons**, bishop and teacher (c.130-200). The greatest theologian of the 2nd century and remembered for his opposition to Gnosticism a movement similar to the 20th century new age movement. He is honoured for drawing upon the insights of theologians of both the east and west and was the first great catholic theologian of the church.

June 29 Peter and Paul, apostles and martyrs. Both were martyred in Rome c. 63-65. Mark's gospel is considered to be based on Peter's memories and Paul is the earliest Jewish interpreter of Jesus as Messiah. His initial violent opposition to followers of Jesus was overturned by a mystical encounter with the risen Christ.

July 1 Coming of the Light, the first missionaries to the Torres Straits (1871) are celebrated on this day. It is still a major Anglican festival in the Torres Straits today.

