



**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

**30 July 2017**

**Sentence** Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 8.38-39*

**Collect** O God, the fount of wisdom, you have revealed to us in Christ the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price: grant us your Spirit's gift of discernment, that, in the midst of the things of this world, we may learn to value the priceless worth of your kingdom, and be ready to renounce all else for the sake of the precious gift you offer. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**A reading from the book of Genesis.**

*In this story, which continues the sagas of the early patriarchs that began with Abraham and Sarah, we learn how Jacob married Laban's two daughters. Jacob fled to his uncle Laban's house in Haran after he tricked his brother Esau out of his inheritance. Now the trickster is himself tricked when Laban deceitfully gives him the older daughter, Leah in marriage when he wanted to younger, Rachel! After promising a further seven years of service Jacob marries both, a week apart.*

Laban said to Jacob, 'Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?' Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, 'I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.' Laban said, 'It is better that I give her to you than that I should give

her to any other man; stay with me.’ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, ‘Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.’ So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, ‘What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?’ Laban said, ‘This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me for another seven years.’ Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

*Genesis 29.15-28*

**Reader** For the word of the Lord

**All** **Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 105.1-11** **8am** APBA, p 332. **10am** TiS 66

*This psalm calls on the descendants of the patriarchs to recall God’s deeds and the covenant God still keeps with them, first made to their ancestors.*

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.**

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those

whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Romans 8.26-39*

Reader     May your word live in us  
**All           And bear much fruit to your glory**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**All           Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Cantor       Every scribe trained for the kingdom of heaven:  
                  brings out treasure that is new and that is old.

**All           Alleluia! 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**

*Three parables – two telling of the inestimable value of God's kingdom, God's rule or way of ordering the world; the third is apocalyptic which means it speaks to a looming crisis or time of decision. With his rejection in Nazareth, Jesus must have sensed that time coming. That even is pivotal in all three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke).*

Jesus put before the crowd another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. He told them another parable, 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.' When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place. Jesus came to his home town and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, 'Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?' And they took offence at him. But Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour except in their own country and in their own house.' And Jesus did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief.

*Matthew 13.44-58*

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord  
**ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

**Prayer for the Week.**

O God, the protector of all that trust in you,  
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and  
multiply upon us your mercy, that, with you as our ruler and  
guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we finally lose  
not the things eternal. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for the sake of  
Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

**Bible Readings next week Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 32.22-31 Psalm 17.1-7, 16 Romans 9.1-8

Matthew 14.13-21

**Pray for the Faithful Departed.**

We remember before God:

Viola Gaskell, Michael Robinson, Peter Frederick Moss,  
John Stevenson, Eira Elisabeth Hayden, Ian Lennox, James  
Boughton, Margaret Thatcher, Clarice Howitt, Beryl Kennedy,  
John Willers, Marjorie Gill, Thelma McDonald, Margaret Goodall ,  
*whose anniversaries occur this week.*

