



**New Guinea Martyrs** *transferred*

**3 September 2016**

**Sentence**

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. *Romans 4.91, 93*

**The Collect**

All powerful and everliving God,  
turn our weakness into strength:  
as you gave the martyrs of Papua New Guinea  
the courage to suffer death for Christ,  
give us the courage to live in faithful witness to you.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**A reading from the book fo the prophet Zephaniah.**

*Zephaniah was a prophet in Judah during the time of the famous reforming King Josiah (640-609BC). This passage is the closing section of the book and foresees a glorious future, unlike the disasters of the early chapters. God's promise, 'I will make you renowned and praised' is heard today to honour the martyrs of New Guinea.*

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!  
The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.  
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.  
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing  
as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.  
I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the Lord. *Zephaniah 3.14-20*

## **Psalm 130 at 4am APBA page 364 at 10am Hymn Book 81**

*This is one of the penitential psalms in which God is invoked as fundamentally forgiving; it moves from individual to communal prayer.*

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

*One of the best known passages in this letter, these words assure us God's purposes are much greater than present circumstances would indicate.*

*Not all situations are good for us but in the midst of ALL these things God's purpose prevails.*

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 8.33-39*

Reader      May your word live in us,

**ALL            And bear much fruit to your glory.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**ALL            Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Those who love their life for the  
sake of the gospel will save it.

**ALL            Alleluia!**

Reader            The Lord be with you

**ALL            And also with you**

Reader            A reading from the holy gospel according to John

**ALL            Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

*This story concludes Jesus’ public ministry in John’s gospel with two coming to him who are not Jews, but Greeks. We do not know if they met Jesus or not.*

*Instead of seeming to welcome them, Jesus speaks of seeds and being lifted up. Jesus’ death will look like tragedy to the world but will be the triumph of trust in God’s goodness that overturns death’s power to destroy all humanity.*

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also.

Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' *John 12.20-32*

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

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

Exodus 12.1-14      Psalm 149  
Romans 13.1-10      Matthew 18.1-20

**Prayer for the Week**

Lord of all power and might,  
the author and giver of all good things:  
graft in our hearts the love of your name,  
increase in us true religion,  
nourish us with all goodness,  
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Pray for the Faithful Departed**

We remember before God:

Joseph Farrington, Winifred McConnell, Marjorie Watson,  
Charles Gregory, Doreen Wagstaff, Ruth Olver, Violet Smith,  
Timothy Malloch, Frederick Stanes, Lillie Gillanders,  
Richard Robinson Belshaw, John (Jock) Mackenzie, May Hardy,  
Helen Pepperell, Margaret Ann Findlay-Hughes, Leslie Lyons,  
William Jarvie, Alan Hain *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

## **Commemorations of the week**

### **September 8 – Birth of Mary, mother of our Lord.**

Nothing historical is known about the birth of Mary and stories about her birth date from the Middle Ages. Her mother, traditionally called Anne, is not mentioned in the bible but also remembered with great affection by the Church.

