



Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

19 November 2017

Sentence God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other. *1 Thessalonians 5.9,11*

Collect Everliving God, before the earth was formed, and even after it shall cease to be, you are God. Break into our short span of life and show us those things that are eternal, that we may serve your purpose in all we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of Judges.

The book of Judges tells Israel's history from Joshua's death to the last judge, Samuel. Judges were charismatic leaders. Deborah is the only female judge, although women prophets were not uncommon. Even after they had arrived in the land promised to them, the Israelites continued in tribal rivalries. This passage begins the cycle of stories about Deborah, one of the most notable women in the Hebrew Scriptures. She is called a 'mother in Israel'.

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly for twenty years. At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgement. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, "Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will

draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand." ' Barak said to her, 'If you will go with me, I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go.' And she said, 'I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.' Then Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh. Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; and ten thousand warriors went up behind him; and Deborah went up with him.

Judges 4.1-10

Reader Hear the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Psalm 123. 8 am and 10am APBA, p. 361

One of the psalms that would have been sung by pilgrims approaching Jerusalem and its Temple, this prayer asks for rescue from enemies. Do you notice God is imaged as a woman, a mistress to whom a servant looks with complete trust. Feminine and maternal imagery to speak of God occurs as one way to image God in the Hebrew Scriptures.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

Paul reminds the Thessalonian Christians of the fragility of trusting in the Roman empire and goes on to exhort them to hold on to the faith, hope and love that is the mark of a follower of Christ so as they can be people of the light.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be

sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

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

Gospel Acclamation

All Alleluia! Alleluia!

Cantor Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
 my branches bear much fruit.

All Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader The Lord be with you

ALL And also with you

Reader A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

ALL Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

In this parable, we can see a parable that can be applied both to the church now and also to the situation of Israel in the time of Jesus. The master in both applications is Jesus, the Son of God. Yes, we can apply it to ourselves, but the parable is for Israel. The first slaves are those whose response to Jesus is a sign of their own service to God, the last slave is like the scribes and Pharisees. They have been given a great treasure only to squander it. Jesus said to his disciples, "The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and

trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Matthew 25.14-30

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

Prayer for the Week Almighty God, whose sovereign purpose none can make void: give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this work, knowing that your kingdom shall come and your will be done, to your eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Bible Readings next week

Christ the King/The Reign of Christ

NB: ONE service at 9.30am

followed by the Annual meeting at 11am.

Ez. 34.11-16, 20-24 Ps. 100 Ephesians 1.15-23 Matt. 25.31-46

Pray for the Faithful Departed We remember before God:

Sydney Davis, *priest*, Hilda Alice Spencer, Bevis Geoffrey Nicholas, Irene Bailey, Winifred Slattery, Lilian Crameri, Frances Sefton, Noel Brown, Pearl Hazewinkel, Nina Lucy Benson, Richard Sexton, Walter Yencken, Norman Coles *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

Commemorations of the Week

November 23 Clement of Rome (d. c.100 AD) Bishop of Rome. He wrote a letter to the Corinthians (c.96 AD), which gives valuable information on the state of the Christian ministry at that time.

November 25 James Noble (1876-1941). Born in Queensland, he was befriended and education by an Anglican grazier and later by an Anglican priest and became the first Anglican indigenous man to be ordained.

