

Second Sunday after Pentecost

3 June 2018

Sentence. It is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
2 Corinthians 4.6

Prayer of the day

Lord God of the nations,
you have revealed your will to all people
and promised us your saving help:
help us to hear and do what you command,
that the darkness may be overcome by the power of your light;
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 Deuteronomy.

'Deuteronomy' means second law and is presented as Moses rehearsing the torah or way to live as the Israelites camp in Moab before entering Canaan. The keeping of a day of rest benefitted slaves and non-Israelites as well as Israelites. Jewish people have learnt over three thousand years of observance that keeping the Sabbath has kept them.

Moses convened all Israel and said to them: observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

Deut. 5.12-15

Reader For the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Psalm 81.1-10 at 8am APBA page 308

This is a hymn for the feast of booths, the last celebration of the harvest as the agricultural year ended. It is a hymn of praise not only for the produce God gives but the freedom to live at peace in their own land after the slavery of Egypt.

A Reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Paul has learned that weakness leads to God's empowering presence being truly experienced. When clay jars crack they cannot be repaired, but cracks allow light to shine through the weak spot. So it is with our lives, Paul says. When we are weak, God's life, known to us in Jesus, is made visible in ours.

We do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

2 Cor. 4.5-12

Reader May your word live in us.

ALL And bear much fruit to your glory.

Bible Readings next week 10 June 2018 [10]

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 3.8-15 Ps 130 2 Cor. 4.13-5.1 Mark 3. 20-35

Prayer for the Week.

Almighty and everliving God, increase in us your gift of faith, so that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before us, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Pray for the Faithful Departed

We remember before God: Dorothy Valentine, Jocelyn Margaret Ray, Robina Bisset, Harold Hood, William Ian Lowry, Edgar Hindell, John Creighton Dean, Wilhelmena Belcher, Judith Granger, Olive Newnham, Henry Mark, Nancy Browne, Hilda Lester

whose anniversaries occur this week.

Commemorations of the week.

June 5 Boniface of Mainz, bishop and martyr (c.675-754).

Born in Devon, England, became a monk and schoolteacher, but gave up a fruitful career to become a missionary to Frisia in 716. Conditions were politically impossible and he returned to England and then went to Rome. Here the Pope, Gregory II, assigned him as a missionary to Bavaria and Hesse and he worked in Frisia and these two regions of Germany till he was murdered by a group of pagans. Boniface was one of the greatest missionaries in the history of the church.

June 9 Columba of Iona, abbot and missionary (c.521-597). Born in Ireland, where he founded a number of monasteries, in 565. With a group of monks, he went to Scotland to found a monastery at Iona, where he spent the rest of his life. Iona has become one of the great centres of spirituality and the monastery was revived in the 20th century by a Scotsman, George McLeod. It is a most beautiful place of pilgrimage visited by many every year.

Gospel Acclamation

ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!

Cantor Jesus said: the sabbath was made for humankind and not humankind for the sabbath.

ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader The Lord be with you

ALL And also with you

Reader A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

ALL Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

David's fighting men were hungry and so ate the bread forbidden to any but the priests. Human need superseded even God's law. Jesus' disciples may well have been walking beyond the allowed distance as well as 'harvesting' on the day of rest. Jesus' assertion that God give us rules for our benefit and not for our rigid keeping by denying our humanity remains a challenge even today.

One sabbath Jesus was going through the cornfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, 'Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?' And he said to them, 'Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions.' Then Jesus said to the Pharisees, 'The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath.'

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord

ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ