

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost Yr B 26 August 2018

Sentence Jesus said, 'It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life'.

John 6.63

Collect

Everliving God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear the prayers we offer for all your faithful people,
that in the ministry to which you have called them
each may serve you in holiness and truth;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the first book of Joshua

This story parallels the choice confronting the disciples in John 6. The challenge, "Choose this day whom you will serve," parallels, "Will you also go away?" and the response, "We will serve the Lord, for he is our God," parallels Peter's response, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. 'Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you

are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.' Then the people answered, 'Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.'

Joshua 24.1-21,14-18

Reader For the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Psalm 34.15-22 at 8am APBA page 254

The whole psalm is a song of praise for deliverance from trouble. The broken hearted and crushed understand and value God's consoling presence while those intent upon wrongdoing reap the effect of their choices in their hatred of good people. In telling the story of Jesus' passion the early church recalled the words of this psalm about God 'keeping all the bones of the righteous'. In John's gospel we are told none of Jesus' bones were broken (19.36).

A Reading from the letter to the Ephesians

The writer appeals to Christians to put on spiritual strength since we oppose what is hostile to the spirit of God in ourselves and others. This imagery lies behind the notion of being 'a soldier of Christ' strong in the strength, not of might and force, but of what God provides, the strengthening gift of the Holy Spirit to persevere faithfully in living in communion with God through Jesus Christ.

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in

Pray for the Faithful Departed:

We remember before God:

Freda Burnett, Elfrida Reeson, Edna Jean Fyfe, Ray Pritchard, Catriona Elizabeth Scott, Clifford Smith, Clifford Searby,

Rose MacPherson, Marcus Manders *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

Commemorations of the week.

August 27 Monica the mother of St. Augustine (d.387). A woman of great faith but rather tiresome, who would not let the adult Augustine out of her sight, much to his annoyance. There is a moving description of her death in the *Confessions of St Augustine* Book 9. **August 28 Augustine**, bishop and teacher (354-430). After a life of doing as he pleased, life with a concubine and a son for 20 years (both of whom he loved dearly) and struggles with the intellectual basis of the faith, he was converted at the age of 32 and made bishop of Hippo, near Carthage in North Africa 10 years later. A man of extraordinary intellectual power and insight, a voluminous writer and one of the most significant theologians the church has produced. His *Confessions* are readily available in paperback.

August 29 Beheading of John the Baptist (Mk.6.14-29; Mt.14.1-12; Lk.9.7-9).

August 31 John Bunyan, preacher and spiritual writer (1628-1688). Best known for his *Pilgrim's Progress*, and, **Aidan of Lindisfarne**, bishop and missionary (d.651). A monk at Iona, missionary to the English and later first abbot of Lindisfarne.

Jesus said to the crowd: 'Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.' He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. The Words of Eternal Life

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, 'For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.' Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?' Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.'

John 6.56-69

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord

ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Bible Readings next week: Martyrs of New Guinea

Zephaniah 3.14-20 Ps 130 Romans 8.33-39 John 12.20-32

Prayer for the Week: Creator God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you: teach us to offer ourselves to your service, that here we may have your peace, and in the world to come may see you face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Ephesians 6.10-20

Reader May your word live in us.

ALL And bear much fruit to your glory.

Gospel Acclamation

ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!

Cantor Simon Peter said: 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.'

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.

Today's gospel portion concludes the series from John 6 on the bread of life. It was Jesus' claim to be the revelation of God in verses 35-50 that many of the disciples found to be a hard saying, not the Eucharistic teaching of earlier verses. Yet, some do accept his claim, namely, the Twelve. And in a scene parallel to the episode at Caesarea Philippi in the other (synoptic) gospels the section concludes with a confession of Peter (vv. 68b-69).