

The Martyrs of New Guinea

02 September 2018

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 8.35, 37

Prayer of the day

Living God,
you made your Church to grow
through the zeal, courage, and unflinching witness
of your servants martyred in New Guinea:
give to us and all your people
such steadfast faith in your good purposes
that we may serve faithfully
wherever you have stationed us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

Zephaniah was a prophet in the 7th century BC before the time of King Josiah's reforms. The prophet preaches a message of hope that God will ultimately vindicate those who are faithful and will remove the effects of the disaster that earlier infidelity brings upon the people of Judah.

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.

Zeph 3.14-20

Reader For the word of the Lord
All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 130 at 8am APBA page364

This psalm is a cry for help from the depths of despair and an affirmation that God is compassionate towards those who call upon God's help.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Paul is asserting that God's good purposes towards God's people are much greater than the circumstances of the present times would indicate. We are assured that all present adversities, God's purposes will prevail.

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,

Commemorations of the week

September 3 Gregory of Rome, bishop and teacher (540-604), one of the greatest of the early bishops of Rome. It was pope Gregory who sent Augustine of Canterbury to England.

September 3 Eliza Darling, pioneer social reformer in NSW (d. 1868). Wife of NSW Governor Ralph Darling, Eliza founded a number of charities to advance the welfare of women. She and her husband were evangelical in their theology and conservative in politics.

September 8 Birth of Mary, mother of our Lord. Nothing historical is known about the birth of Mary but this commemoration helps us to appreciate her role in God's purposes of bringing Jesus to birth as one of us, for us. Mary's mother is traditionally said to be called Anne.

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.

Pray for the Faithful Departed John Sanderson, Burnice Furzer, Joseph Farrington, Winifred McConnell, Marjorie Watson, Charles Gregory, Doreen Wagstaff, Ruth Olver, Violet Smith, Timothy Malloch, Frederick Stanes, Lillie Gillanders, Richard Robinson Belshaw, May Hardy, Helen Pepperell, Margaret Ann Findlay-Hughes *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

Bible Readings next week: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 35.4-7a Ps 146 James 2.1-10, 14-17 Mark 7.24-37

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.

Cantor Jesus said: unless a grain of wheat fall into the earth and dies,
 it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

ALL Alleluia, Alleluia.
 The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
 A reading from the holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

This story concludes Jesus' public ministry in Jerusalem with Jesus hearing God's voice to reassure him and the crowd still struggling to understand that God has sent Jesus into the world. Jesus' words about wheat seed only bearing fruit once it has died in the ground foreshadows the rich harvest of his own death and also evokes the famous saying of Tertullian, the 2nd century theologian, that the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.

Among those who went up to worship at the Passover 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