

21st Sunday after Pentecost

14 October 2018

Sentence. There is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for Jesus' sake, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.
Mark 10.29-30

Collect of the day

God of the narrow way, you call us to shed all that burdens the lightness of life:

help us to surrender false wealth, embrace our need of you
and live for your kingdom above all things;
through Jesus Christ, the richness of God. **Amen.**

A reading from the prophet Amos

At a time of prosperity and when Israel was relying more on military might than God, Amos the shepherd was called to preach a hard word in a smooth time. The times were unjust and immoral, shallow piety had become a meaningless sham. In this passage Amos makes clear that there is yet time to seek the Lord, and live as God long for us to do – in relationship to God.

Seek the LORD and live,

or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.

Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,
and bring righteousness to the ground!

They hate the one who reproves in the gate,
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

Therefore, because you trample on the poor
and take from them levies of grain,
you have built houses of hewn stone,
but you shall not live in them;
you have planted pleasant vineyards,
but you shall not drink their wine.

For I know how many are your transgressions,
and how great are your sins—
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,

and push aside the needy in the gate.
Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;
for it is an evil time.

Seek good and not evil,
that you may live;
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you,
just as you have said.

Hate evil and love good,
and establish justice in the gate;
it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph. *Amos 5.6-7, 10*

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Reader Hear the word of the Lord
ALL Thanks be to God

Psalm 90.12-17 APBA, page 318.

The psalmist prays the people may learn wisdom and thus God will be able to deliver Israel from its difficulties.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

For the Hebrews, the principal meaning of the phrase 'word of God' is not the written word but God's activity (as in the creation stories 'God spoke... and it was so'). This reaches its fullest expression in Jesus, the Word of God as John calls him, the high priest who is appointed by God and who understands our human weakness. These two qualities enable Jesus to be among us as one of us and to take us into the fullness of God's presence where he now dwells eternally.

The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that

October 17 Ignatius of Antioch (d. c.107 AD) Bishop in Antioch and martyred in Rome. Like Paul, taken to Rome as a prisoner during Roman persecutions. Ignatius wrote seven Letters which are important testimonies to early Christianity. **October 18 Luke evangelist and martyr.** A Greek physician and companion of Paul on the latter's missionary journeys. Author of the third Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. He had a special interest in the poor, disadvantaged, women and the outcastes since God has a special care for the poor and the vulnerable. **October 19 Henry Martyn** (1781-1812). Anglican missionary to the east who translated the NT into Hindi, Persian, and Arabic.

you.' Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first. *Mk 10.17-31*

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

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK.

Almighty God, in your wisdom you have so ordered our earthly life that we must walk by faith and not by sight: Give us such trust in your fatherly care that in the face of all perplexities we may give proof of our faith by the courage of our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BIBLE READINGS NEXT SUNDAY St Luke, evangelist and martyr.

Jeremiah 8.22-9.3 Psalm 145.10-18 2 Timothy 4.9-17a Luke 10.1-9

Pray for the Faithful Departed

We remember before God: Muriel Bennett, James Macindoe Guest, Cyril Horsburgh, April Powell, Edward Hughes, Mary Evelyn Street, Jenifer St John, Jessie Jones, Ulysses Richards, Thomas Belcher, Leslie Russell, Eleanor Krome, Florence Richards and Keith Emmerson *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

COMMEMORATIONS OF THE WEEK.

October 15 Teresa of Avila (1515-1582), Spanish Carmelite nun and mystic. She wrote numerous mystical writings which have been influential. She was a strong character, shrewd and of great practical ability. She greatly enriched the practice of prayer in the church, especially in meditation and mystic experience.

October 16 Hugh Latimer (1485-1555) and **Nicholas Ridley** (1500-1333) Martyrs to the protestant reformation, executed (burnt at the stake in Oxford) in the reign of Queen Mary, who succeeded her father Henry VIII, and who restored England to Rome for a time. Ridley College Melbourne is named after Nicholas Ridley.

we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4. 12-16

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

Gospel Acclamation

ALL Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: Many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

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

This is a sad story. The young man desires to be a follower of Jesus but cannot give up what holds him back. Nothing compares to the freedom and joy of leaving 'baggage' behind and going where God goes.

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?'

Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother." ' He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.'

Peter began to say to him, 'Look, we have left everything and followed