

23RD SUNDAY after PENTECOST

28 October 2018

Sentence.

The redeemed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing;
and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads.

Isaiah 51.11

Collect of the day.

Holy God, you call us from the roadside to see ourselves in you:

let us take heart and come to you though the road leads to Calvary and a
darkened sky, to love revealed to lightless eyes, through Jesus Christ,
the image of the invisible God. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah

*This is a song of homecoming for the exiled of Jerusalem dispersed among
the nations. God promises to bring them back to Israel where the Temple
will be rebuilt and pilgrimage resumed. It will be a new exodus and all,
even the formerly excluded, will be among God's people. Christians believe
this promise is fulfilled in Jesus Christ whose risen life is the 'new temple'
and whose church is the inclusive community where all may share in God's
grace.*

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
'Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.'

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labour, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,

and Ephraim is my firstborn. *Jeremiah 31.7-9*

Reader Hear the word of the Lord

ALL **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 126 at 8am APBA page 319 *This song is clearly linked to the Jeremiah reading and expresses the joy of restoration to Israel. References to abundant winter rain, even in the arid regions, and a good harvest are metaphors for God's provision.*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

The writer stresses that the priesthood of the Jerusalem Temple (destroyed in 70AD) was provisional and temporary until the priesthood of Jesus, established by God's oath, became permanent. As our high priest he 'lives to intercede for us'. Is that not a most awesome and comforting realisation? It means that Jesus prays for each of us, and for our world, continually.

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but Jesus holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues for ever. Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever. *Hebrews 7.23-28*

November 3 Richard Hooker (1554-1600) An Anglican theologian. In 1594 he published his most important work, "The Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity, which has given Anglicanism its emphasis and direction.

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

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK.

Almighty and everlasting God, give to us the increase of faith, hope and love;

and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us to love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BIBLE READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

All Saints/all Souls transferred 8am and 10am, 5pm

Isaiah 25.6-9; Ps 24; Rev 21.1-6a; John 11. 32-44

Pray for the Faithful Departed

We remember before God: Keith Garden, Phyllis Reynolds-Gill, Erina Bedford Standish, Thomas Mitchel Felgate MBE, Susan Charles Berry, Dorothy Wedlake, Myrtle Glasson, Harold Robinson, Ella Cornish, John Glover, Frederick King, Arthur Dickens, Peter Hooper, Paul Grainger-Smith, Hugh Were, Dorothy Wilma Gibson whose anniversaries occur this week.

COMMEMORATIONS OF THE WEEK.

October 28 Simon and Jude, Apostles and martyrs. Simon the Zealot perhaps previously belonged to the radical Jewish sect, using guerrilla tactics to obtain the independence of Israel from Roman occupation. Jude was probably the brother of our Lord (Mk.6.3) and the author of the Letter of Jude (Jude 1.1). Nothing is known of their later lives.

October 31 Martin Luther (1483-1546) and the other Continental Reformers. We are heirs to aspects of the continental Reformation as to other earlier and later movements of reform in the church. Luther's German translation of the Bible is one of the masterpieces of German literature.

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

Gospel Acclamation

ALL Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said to the blind man: 'What do you want me to do for you? The blind man said: "My teacher, let me see again.'

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 healing of a blind man contrasts with the blindness of the disciples; though he cannot see, Bartimaeus 'sees' who Jesus is and once his physical sight is restored he follows on the way. The physical way is the road to Jerusalem. Jericho is in the Jordan valley, about 21 kilometres from Jerusalem. The 'way' Bartimaeus journeys is towards the cross and resurrection. The spiritual blindness of the disciples, a feature of Mark's gospel, will not be healed before they see Jesus suffer.

As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed Jesus on the way

Mark 10.46-42