



St George's Anglican Church | Malvern

Peter and Paul, apostles & martyrs

28 June 2015

Sentence

Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord you know everything; you know that I love you. *John 87.73*

Collect

Lord of the broken church
whose chosen foundations
are marked by faultlines:
we thank you for the grace
that took the denier and the persecutor
and made them witnesses
to your liberating gifts; through Jesus Christ,
who sets the prisoner free. **Amen.**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

This Herod is the nephew of the Herod of Luke's gospel, and his persecution of the infant church now touches the apostles. Peter is arrested at Passover, the same time of year that Jesus himself was taken, but Peter's 'hour' has not come and this time he is miraculously rescued. He will be martyred in Rome, fulfilling Jesus' words in John's gospel that Peter would be taken where he did not wish to go.

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him. The very night before Herod

was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his wrists. The angel said to him, 'Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.' He did so. Then he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.' Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

Acts 12. 1-11

Reader For the word of the Lord
ALL **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 87 APBA, page 313

This psalm celebrates the coming of other nations to Jerusalem foreshadowing the inclusion of Gentiles in God's redemptive purposes.

A reading from the second letter to Timothy

Close to death, Paul writes to his 'beloved child' Timothy, his co-worker in the gospel and reflects on his life and ministry.

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. But the Lord stood by me and

gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever.
2 Timothy 4.6-8, 17-18

Reader May your word live in us

ALL and bear much fruit to your glory.

Gospel Acclamation

ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!

Jesus said to Peter, 'Tend my lambs;
and feed my sheep'

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.

Scholars generally agree that another writer added this chapter which tells a story of Peter affirming his love for Christ beside a charcoal fire at the dawn of a new day in Galilee, having denied Jesus three times beside the fire in Jerusalem on the night of Jesus' arrest.

When the disciples had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to

go.' (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.' Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, 'Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?' When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, 'Lord, what about him?' Jesus said to him, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!'

John 21. 15-22

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord

ALL Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Prayer for the Week

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to suffer death upon a cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bible Readings next week 5 July 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 2.1-15 Ps 123 2 Corinthians 12.2-10 Mark 6.1-13

Pray for the Faithful Departed

Frank Townsend *Priest*, Amelia Corless, Robert Farquharson, John Hilsberg, Helen Cotton, Leonard Newton, Bill McSpedden *Priest*, Roberta Frost, Daphne (Bon) Chandler, Erich Mehrens, Thomas Percival (Tom) Pringle, Margaret Hooper, Mary Margaret (Peg) Blackman, William Green, *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

Commemorations of the Week.

July 1 Coming of the Light, the first missionaries to the Torres Straits (1871)

THANK YOU from the Vicar to Jacqui smith and John Stewart, my wonderful colleagues in ministry who cared for the parish in my absence. Knowing that they were looking after things meant that I could enjoy my time away with family and friends in England and Scotland. The highlight was preaching at my grandson's baptism in London and bringing with me water from the River Jordan to add to the Thames water in the font.

(Insert A)

Processional Hymn

God called Paul from hate to loving,
showed him Christ alive again,
helped him see the cross as wisdom,
life as Christ, and death as gain.
May our church, with Paul's devotion,
Look to Jesus as our Lord

God gave Paul the Holy Spirit,
bringing faith and hope and love,
grace to see the gifts of others,
joy in prayer, and strength to serve.
May we, too, be Spirit-gifted,
strong and gentle, holy and wise.

God used Paul to teach the churches
what their common life should be,
one in Christ, both Jew and Gentile,
male and female, slave and free,
May we share Paul's generous vision,
welcome all in Jesus' name.

God brought Paul from law to freedom,
taught how faith alone could save,
sent him preaching to the nations
in the power the Spirit gave.
May our church, with Paul's own passion,
tell the saving love of God.

Now may we, like Paul, live boldly,
go wherever God may send,
witness in and out of season,
run our race until the end.
May we find our peace in Jesus,
see our Saviour face to face.

Words: Elizabeth J Smith

Suggested music: Cwm Rhondda (AHB478)

(Insert B)

Post –communion

‘THOU art the Christ, O Lord,
The Son of God most high!’
For ever be adored
That name in earth and sky,
In which, though mortal strength may fail,
The saints of God at last prevail.

O surely he was blest
With blessedness unpriced,
Who, taught of God, confessed
The Godhead in the Christ;
For of thy Church, Lord, thou didst own
Thy saint a true foundation-stone.

Thrice fallen, thrice restored,
The bitter lesson learnt,
That heart for thee, O Lord,
With triple ardour burnt.
The cross he took he laid not down
Until he grasped the martyr’s crown.

O bright triumphant faith,
O courage void of fears,
O love most strong in death,
O penitential tears!
By these, Lord, keep us lest we fall,
And make us go where thou shalt call.

W. Walsham How 1823-97