



St George's Anglican Church | Malvern

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost Yr B 13 September 2015

Sentence Those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for the sake of the gospel will save it.

Mark 8.35

Collect

Scandalous God, you suffer our will to power,
and the narrowness of our faith:
lead us on the path of loss where empires tremble
and terror yields to wisdom's cry
and the open hands of love;
through Jesus Christ, the crucified Lord. **Amen.**

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

This is the third servant song of Second Isaiah. Written for a people in exile, it was later used by the Church to interpret Jesus' suffering. The servant songs and the psalms about God's vindication of the righteous sufferer provide a pattern of divine action that finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

The servant of the Lord said:

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens –
wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,

and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty? *Isaiah 50.4-9a*

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

Psalm 116.1-9 APBA page 346 at 10am TiS 71

This is a thanksgiving for healing and expresses trust and confidence in God based on past experience. It informs our understanding of Jesus' own faith since the psalms were his prayer book.

Reading from the letter of James

Faith, if it is genuine, is bound to issue in good works, otherwise it is barren. Here James agrees with the best teaching of Judaism, with Jesus, Paul and John's first letter to the Church

Someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith without works, and I by my works will show you my faith. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder. Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith without works is barren? Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was brought to completion by the works. Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness', and he was called the friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. Likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent

them out by another road? For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

James 2.18-26

Reader May your word live in us.

ALL And bear much fruit to your glory.

Gospel Acclamation

ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!

Cantor Jesus began to teach them that the son of man must suffer: and after three days rise again.

ALL 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.

Mark has combined two traditions—the confession of Peter and the saying about bearing one’s cross— to show what a true understanding of Jesus is. Following him is true discipleship and means bearing the cross, the sign of belonging to his company, in our mortal bodies, as Paul phrased it. In baptism we are signed with the cross and exhorted to live confessing Christ crucified.

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that I am?’ And they answered him, ‘John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.’ He asked them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Peter answered him, ‘You are the Messiah.’ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine

things but on human things.' He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

Mark 8.27-38

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

Bible Readings next week **20 September 2015**

Jeremiah 11.18-20 Psalm 54 James 3.1-12 Mark 9. 30-37

Prayer for the Week

O God, without you we are not able to please you:
mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and
rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Pray for the Faithful Departed

We remember before God: Eva Davis, Violet Atkins, Rita Campbell, Elsie Alfred, Margaret Hansen, Emma Giggins, Edith Augusta Elliot, Georgina Alica Bray, John Taylor, John Hetherington, Dorothy Corden, Lilian St John, Margaret Johnston, and Frank Cuttriss, priest, *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

Commemorations of the week

September 16 Ninian of Galloway, bishop and missionary (d. c 432). Missionary to the Scots. Founded a church at Whithorn in Wigtownshire (now in Galloway), which became a place of pilgrimage.

September 17 Hildegard of Bingen, abbess of Rupertsberg (near Bingen on the Rhine) (1098-1179). One of the great mystics of the Middle Ages. She received many visions which she recorded and are

still available and used today. Her music is also enjoying popularity again.

September 18 John Ramsden Wollaston, priest and missionary of Western Australia (d. 1856) **September 20 John Coleridge Patterson**, first bishop of Melanesia, martyred 1871.

News from the Parish Council meeting last Tuesday.

After consideration, Parish Council supported the Vicar's recommendation that Christmas services be as follows, with only one service at 9am on Christmas Day:

Advent Carol Service	6 December 7.30pm
Christmas Eve	Children's Crib service 5pm
	Midnight Mass 11.30pm
Christmas Day	Sung Eucharist 9am

See the note opposite about singing in the choir. Do you know someone who would love to sing just for Christmas—a grandchild or a friend?