



St George's Anglican Church | Malvern

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

20 September 2015

Sentence

Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.
Mark 9.35

Collect of the day

God who draws near, who comes to our level,
whose nature is revealed in lordship laid aside:
give us grace to welcome you
in the one who tests the bounds of our community:
in the child, the outcast the one without power save that of remaking
our hearts, through Jesus Christ, the one who will be betrayed.
Amen.

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah

This text is Jeremiah's first of six personal laments. The prophet has just learned that he is the unwitting object of an assassination plot and prays to God for protection.

It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.
But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.
And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,
'Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!'
But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
For to you I have committed my cause. *Jeremiah 11.18-20*

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

10am Psalm 84:1-4. Choir only.

A prayer for deliverance from personal enemies, which is a lament.

A reading from the letter of James.

The two besetting sins of a teacher are intemperate speech and arrogance, whereas true wisdom is a gift of God and not a human achievement. The tongue, a small part of the human body is capable of doing great damage through our words; and it is also capable of speaking great wisdom! What we say, and how we say it, really matters in the Christian community.

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grape vine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

James 3.1-12

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



Gospel Acclamation

ALL **Alleluia, alleluia!**

Jesus said to the twelve: 'Whoever wants to be first must be the last and servant of all.'

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 the second time, on his journey towards Jerusalem that Jesus speaks about his coming suffering and again the disciples do not understand – as is seen in their discussion of who is the greatest among them. Children were considered the lowest status members of the household, so by taking a child and putting her in the middle, Jesus is making the point very clearly. I wonder if anyone that day recalled the words of Isaiah 11.6 which speak of God's peaceable kingdom where 'the wolf shall live with the lamb.... And a little child shall lead them.'

After leaving the mountain [where he was transfigured], Jesus and his disciples went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise

again.' But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

Mark. 9. 30-37

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord

ALL Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK.

Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted in a wonderful order the ministries of angels and mortals: grant that, as your holy angels stand before you in heaven, so at your command they may help and defend us here on earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pray for the Faithful Departed

We remember before God: Ian Agnew, Arnold Williams, Beryl Sadleir, Wilf Jennings, Amy Embling, Annie Logan, Margaret Bauer, Verna Coles, Esther Monica vanden Driesen, *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

BIBLE READINGS NEXT SUNDAY Michael and All Angels.

Ezekiel 1.4-12 Ps 138 Revelation 12.7-12a John 1.45-51

COMMEMORATIONS OF THE WEEK.

September 25 Sergius of Moscow (1315-1392). Restored monastic life in Russia after the Mongol invasions and founded about 40 monasteries.

September 26 Lancelot Andrewes.(1555-1626), Bishop of Winchester, brilliant preacher and scholar (he knew 15 languages!). He was one of the translators of the Authorised Version of the Bible and held a distinctive Anglican theology after the errors and rigidities of Puritanism.