

Lessons for 3rd Sunday of Pentecost – June 26, 2022

Collect: Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

First Reading: I Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

The Lord said to Elijah, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.” So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was plowing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, “Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.” Then Elijah said to him, “Go back again; for what have I done to you?” He returned from following him, and took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 16

Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

I have said to the Lord, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”

All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land,

upon those who are noble among the people.

But those who run after other gods

shall have their troubles multiplied.

Their libations of blood I will not offer,

nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.

O Lord, you are my portion and my cup;

it is you who uphold my lot.

My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me, night after night.
I have set the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.
My heart, therefore is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.
For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the Pit.
You will show me the path of life;
*in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures
for evermore.*

Second Reading: Galatians 5:1, 13-25

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. Live by the Spirit I say and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: Those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

The Word of the Lord. *Thank be to God.*

Gospel: Luke 9:51-62

When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples, James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went onto another village. As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said "follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Pentecost 3 Morning Prayer Service – June 26, 2022

Prelude

Hymn 620, stanza 1-3 – Jerusalem, my happy home

Jerusalem, my happy home, when shall I come to thee?
When shall my sorrows have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?

Thy saints are crowned with glory great; they see God face to face;
they triumph still, they still rejoice in that most happy place.

There David stands with harp in hand as master of the choir:
Ten thousand times would one be blest who might this music hear.

Opening sentence - BCP page 40

This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Invitation to Confession – BCP page 41

So that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship Almighty God, let us, with penitent and obedient hearts, confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Confession – BCP pages 41-42

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and have done those things which we ought not to have done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess their faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

Absolution – BCP page 42

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Gloria – BCP page 42

O Lord, open thou our lips.
And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Venite – BCP page 44

Come, let us sing to the Lord;
 let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving,
 and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God,
 and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are all the corners of the earth,
 and the strength of the hills is his also.
The sea is his and he made it,
 and he prepared the dry land.
O come, let us worship and fall down
 and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is the Lord our God,
 and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.
O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
 let the whole earth stand in awe of him.
For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth,
 and with righteousness to judge the world and the people with his truth.

Psalm 16 – insert

First Reading: I Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 – insert

Second Reading: Galatians 5:1, 13-25 – insert

Hymn 411, stanzas -1-3

O bless the Lord, my soul!

O bless the Lord, my soul! His grace to thee proclaim!
And all that is within me join to bless his holy Name!

O bless the Lord, my soul! His mercies bear in mind!
Forget not all his benefits! The Lord to thee is kind.

He will not always chide; he will with patience wait;
his wrath is ever slow to rise and ready to abate.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 9:51-62- insert

Sermon – The Rev. Charles Rowins

Apostles' Creed – pp 53-54

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried,
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father
almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come,

thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Suffrages A – page 55

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

and grant us thy salvation.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness;

and make thy chosen people joyful.

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

for only in thee can we live in safety.

Lord, keep this nation under thy care;

and guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Let thy way be known upon earth;

thy saving health among all nations.

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Create in us clean hearts, O God;

and sustain us with thy Holy Spirit.

Collect for Third Sunday after Pentecost – insert

Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever an ever. *Amen.*

Prayers for Sunday, Families and Guidance - BCP pp 56, 828 and 832

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who settest the solitary in families: We commend to thy continual care the homes in which thy people dwell. Put far from them, we beseech thee, every root of bitterness, the desire of vainglory, and the pride of life. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness. Knit together in constant affection those who, in holy wedlock, have been made one flesh. Turn the hearts of the parents to the children, and the hearts of the children to the parents; and so enkindle fervent charity among us all that we may evermore be kindly affectioned one to another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light riseth up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what thou wouldest have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in thy light we may see light, and in thy straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

General Thanksgiving - BCP pp 58-59

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

Announcements and *America*

Prayer of St. Chrysostom – BCP, p 59

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee, and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

The Grace – BCP, p 59

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

Hymn 573, stanzas 1-3 – Father eternal, Ruler of creation

Father eternal, Ruler of creation,
Spirit of life, which moved ere form was made,
through the thick darkness covering every nation,
light to our blindness, O be thou our aid:
thy kingdom come, O Lord, thy will be done.

Races and peoples, lo, we stand divided,
and, sharing not our griefs, no joy can share;
by wars and tumults love is mocked, derided;
his saving cross no nation yet will bear:
thy Kingdom come, O Lord, thy will be done.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and ever, never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.
thy Kingdom come, O Lord, thy will be done.

Dismissal and Postlude

Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sermon preached by The Rev. Charles Rowins at St. Christopher-by-the-Sea, Gibson Island, Maryland, 3rd Sunday after Pentecost, June 26, 2022.

Today's lessons are a handful, but worth our attention

The passage from the First Book of Kings features the prophet Elijah and a farmer named Elisha. Elijah the prophet is ready for retirement as a prophet, and seeks a successor. He sees Elisha plowing the fields, and with the Lord's assent, says "He's the one." Elijah's method for identifying his successor is to throw a mantle over Elisha (**I Kings 19:19**). When this happens, Elisha accepts the appointment, slaughters the oxen, gives the meat to the hungry, and follows Elijah.

Quite a story. Quite a transition. One might say "God acts in mysterious ways." But God does act. Not quite as simple as the game "Duck, duck, goose," but effective. One identifies a successor and then taps that person. If the transition is formally recognized, there might be a tapping ceremony.

At any rate, we have a new prophet. Elisha has accepted the appointment and its challenges. This acceptance is in the spirit of today's Psalm. "My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope. For you will not abandon me to the grace, nor let your holy one see the Pit."
(Psalm 16:10)

When we accept a new assignment that is challenging, we might well offer a prayer with this sentiment. "Lord, you got me into this mess. I didn't ask for that mantle, but you threw it over me. Don't you dare leave me now."

And, as well, we might reach out to a partner, a colleague, a mentor, whom we trust, and seek that person's counsel. And that counsel might sound a lot like St. Paul's letter to the Galatians. In today's passage from Galatians, Paul talks about behavior to avoid and behavior to champion. "I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (**Galatians 5:21**)

Now, given this pep talk, you're ready to proceed with your assignment. But things don't go as you planned, as you hoped, perhaps as you had promised.

Sound familiar? From today's lesson from Luke: "And he, Jesus, sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem." (Luke 9:52)

My guess is that all of us have been in this situation. We have a vision and we share that vision. But, as it turns out, our audience, our employees, our volunteers, our customers, our families, our friends, have a different vision. They don't necessarily buy into ours.

Our leadership is tested right from the start. Not what we wanted, not what we expected. We assumed that there would be a positive response. Those few who shared our vision ask us, "Do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" To which we respond, "No, let's accept the reality that change, particularly the kind of change that we're talking about, is a challenge for people. They might say, 'I will follow you wherever you go,' but perhaps they don't mean it. They will postpone their allegiance. They will claim that they must attend to others things first."

"So, Lord, what should we do?" To which the Lord replies, "We must stick to the plan and exercise forgiveness and patience." Yes, it is true that "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." But we can't let the process end on a sour note. My Father didn't send me to "end on a sour note," but rather on a "saving note." What this morning's Collect calls "joined together in unity of spirit."

"Joined together." A good outcome, a desired outcome, an outcome most likely to achieve our goals. Corporate and personal and spiritual satisfaction is a joint effort. And, more to the point, the success of that joint effort is a function of who our partner is. You and I in this setting have accepted, or are considering, God's offer in Jesus to be our partner.

In a way, God has thrown a mantle over us. We can ignore the mantle and take our self-reliant chances. Or we can say "Thank you, Lord, for the invitation to follow you. I would like to accept. I am intrigued by you and the challenge that you present to me. I recognize that following you involves service and sacrifice. And there is the possibility that those with whom I share my decision might

wonder if I have lost my mind. But I don't think that I have strayed. I think rather that I have found the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Count me in, Lord."

The hymn we just sang reinforces this positive decision: "O bless the Lord, my soul. His grace to thee proclaim! And all that is within me join to bless his holy Name!"

Oh yes, we can turn away from the Lord. But we should remember that the very fact that we are even considering what to do just might be a result of a mantle being thrown by the Lord himself. He wants us, so he gets our attention. And then he gives us a choice, an opportunity, to follow, to join with him.

And, if our experience is telling, God won't throw the mantle just once. We can say "no" or "not now" or "not ever." But that won't change God's desire to invite us to follow. It is a standing invitation like no other, because it is issued by the One who is like no other.

Yes, the opportunity to "bless the Lord" is open-ended. It will always be there. Not one and done. But now and for ever.

Today's Psalm says it very well: "You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore."

Amen.