



## GOD'S WORD FOR THIS WEEK

**The First Sunday after Trinity**

*14th June 2020*

**YEAR A / ORDINARY TIME / GREEN**

### THE COLLECT

God,  
the strength of all those who put their trust in  
you:  
Mercifully accept our prayers  
and, because through the weakness of our mortal  
nature  
we can do no good thing without you, grant us  
the help of your grace,  
that in the keeping of your commandments  
we may please you, both in will and deed;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### THE OLD TESTAMENT READING – GENESIS 18: 1-15, (21: 1-7)

18The Lord appeared to Abraham\* by the oaks\* of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup>He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. <sup>3</sup>He said, 'My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup>Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup>Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh

yourselves, and after that you may pass on— since you have come to your servant.' So they said, 'Do as you have said.' <sup>6</sup>And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, 'Make ready quickly three measures\* of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.' <sup>7</sup>Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup>Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.



9 They said to him, 'Where is your wife Sarah?' And he said, 'There, in the tent.' <sup>10</sup>Then one said, 'I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.' And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. <sup>11</sup>Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. <sup>12</sup>So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, 'After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?' <sup>13</sup>The Lord said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh, and say, "Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?" <sup>14</sup>Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.' <sup>15</sup>But Sarah denied, saying, 'I did not laugh'; for she was afraid. He said, 'Oh yes, you did laugh.']

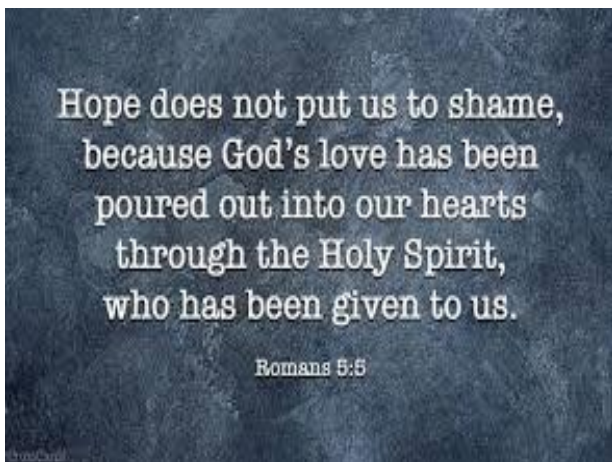
21The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. <sup>2</sup>Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. <sup>3</sup>Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. <sup>4</sup>And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days

old, as God had commanded him. <sup>5</sup>Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. <sup>6</sup>Now Sarah said, 'God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.' <sup>7</sup>And she said, 'Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.']

#### THE EPISTLE - Romans 5: 1-8

<sup>5</sup>Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we\* have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access\* to this grace in which we stand; and we\* boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we\* also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.



#### THE GOSPEL READING

#### Matthew 9: 35 - 10: 8, [9-23]

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. <sup>36</sup>When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup>Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; <sup>38</sup>therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'



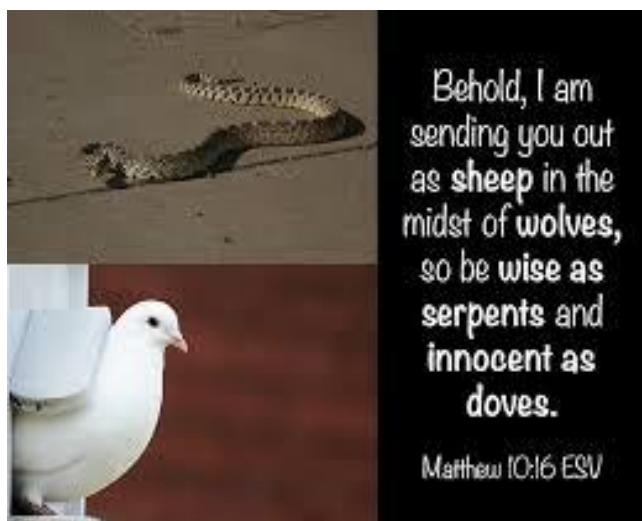
<sup>10</sup>Then Jesus\* summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. <sup>2</sup>These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; <sup>3</sup>Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup>Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

<sup>5</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, <sup>6</sup>but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup>As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near."\* <sup>8</sup>Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers,\* cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. [<sup>9</sup>Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, <sup>10</sup>no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for labourers deserve their food. <sup>11</sup>Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. <sup>12</sup>As you enter the house, greet it. <sup>13</sup>If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. <sup>14</sup>If anyone will not welcome

you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. <sup>15</sup>Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgement than for that town.

16 'See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. <sup>17</sup>Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; <sup>18</sup>and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup>When they hand you over, do not worry about how

you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; <sup>20</sup>for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. <sup>21</sup>Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and



have them put to death; <sup>22</sup>and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>23</sup>When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.]

## THE PSALM 116

- 1 I love the Lord,  
for he has heard the voice of my supplication;  
because he inclined his ear to me  
on the day I called to him.
- 10 How shall I repay the Lord  
for all the benefits he has given to me?
- 11 I will lift up the cup of salvation

and call upon the name of the Lord.

- 12 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people.
- 13 Precious in the sight of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful servants.
- 14 O Lord, I am your servant,  
your servant, the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.
- 15 I will offer to you a sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name of the Lord.
- 16 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people,
- 17 In the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.  
Alleluia.

## POINTERS FOR PRAYER

### The First Reading:

The greatest tribute ever paid to my Father was that he was a true 'gentleman'. The meaning of gentleman, I subsequently discovered, is 'someone who sees to it that every person is entirely comfortable in their presence'.

We meet such gentlemanly traits in Abraham in the First Reading for this week as he opens a wealth of welcome to three strangers beneath the Oaks of Mamre. There is something to be said about the heart of the man that was Abraham and the reasons for God's choosing him as the Father of the Jewish Faith. Abraham provides for the needs of these three divine entities who in return provide Abraham and his wife Sarah with nothing short of a miracle in the birth of a Son (Isaac) in their old age.

To what extent do we provide a genuine welcome to the stranger in our midst or the person in whose company we may not feel entirely comfortable? Are we vigilant to the needs of others within our company and how can we put their needs before our own?

Perhaps someone might instantly come to mind as you read this for one of the above reasons. This might be someone or something you could pray about.

### The Epistle:



Isn't there something particularly resilient in some of the older generation you know or have known?! There is an unyielding trust in God, regardless of what life throws in their direction. They boast in the knowledge and power of God, even in challenging times. Perhaps you too feel this way. Perhaps your faith was passed on to you by one such person in the past who you might give thanks for today. Who comes to mind? Having an authentic faith is not to expect the road to be easy as a consequence but that you will never be alone during the more difficult times.

### The Gospel:

There is so much to be said about the Gospel reading today. Taking just one small piece of it, it is interesting to note that Jesus sends his disciples out full equipped with spiritual powers but lacking in everything earthly i.e. goods or belongings. They are completely reliant on the generosity of others and on their faith in the Spirit to enable them to perform miracles!

Putting aside our earthly possessions and priorities in order to concentrate on all that is unseen can be a challenge. Where are the areas in your life in which changes could be made and do you truly believe that, focusing on God's will and power, can transform you (as it did the disciples) and enable you to transform the lives of others?

Jesus is fully aware of the large sway of humanity his disciples will encounter, from the vulnerable to the misleading. He requires of his disciples that they become both gentle and wily to the ways of the world in order to survive.

Interestingly, he seems to instruct them to 'move on' from certain situations where people's hearts may be hardened against what they are trying to achieve. In doing so Christ gives us the freedom to discern where to go or not to go, but it must all be done in the name of peace.

What are these words raising within your heart and mind today? What arises needs to be prayed for.