



10th September 2023

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Hymns: 187 188 168 139

Sentence

'Where two or three are gathered in my name,' says the Lord, 'I am there among them.' (*Matthew 18:20*)

The Collect

Lord of justice, Lord of peace, wash the dirt from our feet and the blood from our hands that we might take our place at your table. Lead us to the bank of the quiet billabong, that we might reflect on what it means to be stewards of profligate beauty. Strip us of cleverness and easy words. Re-train our senses to see you in every scent and sound and touch of the world you have chosen to love. Make us less than conquerors, make us willing to heal. Through Jesus Christ, Lord of life and renewal. **Amen.**

First Reading

A reading from the book of Exodus, chapter 12, beginning at verse 1.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods

of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 149

R: Sing to the Lord a new song.

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful. Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King. Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre. **R...**

For the Lord takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with victory. Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches. Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands, **R...**

to execute vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples. to bind their kings with fetters and their nobles with chains of iron, to execute on them the judgement decreed. This is glory for all his faithful ones. Praise the Lord! **R...**

Second Reading

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans, chapter 13, beginning at verse 1.

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgement. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; for it is God's servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, busy with this very thing. Pay to all what is due to them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honour to whom honour is due. Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as

yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Jesus said, 'whatever you bind on earth, will be bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth, will be loosed in heaven.'

Alleluia!

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, chapter 18, beginning at the 10th verse.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

'Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost. 'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Prayers of the People

During the Season of Creation, we offer our prayers for the world around us; giving thanks for the bounty God offers us, and asking God's forgiveness for misuse of the earth's resources.

Creator God, we ask for the grace to hear 'the cry of the earth' and in so doing to care for creation. In giving us a new spirit of listening, transform our hearts with a desire to respond. Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Father of all, you have formed the entire human family over many generations. Give us a new familial care for each of the creatures you have made, indeed for all life on our planet. Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Spirit of life, bless all of creation, and within it each and every creature. Give us an awareness of your outpouring of love in all things, and a willingness to be changed by this love. Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Spirit of freedom, inspire us to enter into solidarity with all creation in our deeds, not just in our words. Call us to enter into new commitments which put ourselves at the service of our 'common home'. Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Christ our brother, grant us the holy desire to call upon your name as we seek to sustain the gift of creation. Help us to act decisively to keep safe our endangered planet. Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Jesus, friend of the earth, nourish our efforts to bring reconciliation to the earth. Be with us in this mission of rekindling the bonds between you, human beings and all that exists. Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Spirit of life, bless all of creation, and within it each and every creature. Give us an awareness of your outpouring of love in all things, and a willingness to be changed by this love. Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Father, you know our hearts and minds, as well as the wonderful burden of our compassion. We bring before you in a moment of silence those who have asked our prayers for healing and restoration... *(pause)* Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Spirit who hovered over the waters of creation, you reinvent the lives of the deceased in the eternal cycle. By the mercy of Jesus our redeemer, bring the souls of our loved ones back into the Father's heart; praying especially for those recently departed, and those whose year's mind occurs at this time. Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

Grant that what we have asked in faith, we may by your grace receive; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Notices

Bible Study

Our next Bible Study session is Tuesday 12th September, at 7.30pm, at Christ Church Kilmore. All are welcome to join, as we continue our journey through Jeremiah.

Synod Reps Meeting

There will be a meeting of Synod Representatives at St Paul's Euroa, on Saturday 16th of September, from 10am til about 1pm. This is a follow-up discussion to the one held at Synod regarding actioning the Lambeth Calls.

Art Exhibition

Fr. David is having a solo exhibition of his artwork on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th of September, at St Mark's Anglican Church Balnarring. The exhibition is open 10am to 4pm both days, with an artist talk at 5pm on the Friday. All are welcome. Fr. David will be out of the parish from 11am on Thursday until Saturday evening.

Hakuna Matata Children's Choir

We have been offered the prospect of the Hakuna Matata children's choir from Kenya performing at Christ Church, most likely some time in February 2024. They contribute to the welfare of orphans in Africa as they tour Australia. This will only be possible if we are able to find ways to accommodate the 15 young members and their 4 guardians over the weekend in which they perform. If you would be willing to help with accommodation, or have ideas as to how we might achieve this, please contact Fr. David.

Direct Debit /EFT Offerings – Account details: BENDIGO BANK – Account Name 'Anglican Parish of Kilmore;' BSB 633-000; Account Number 158946921.
Reference: Offertory. An EFTPOS machine is available at Kilmore.

This Week in the Parish:

Monday 11th September: 10am-12pm Op Shop Trading

Wednesday 13th September: 2.30pm Dianella RACF Service

Thursday 14th September: 10am Mass, St Matthew's Broadford

10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

Friday 15th September: 10.30am: Blue Cross RACF Service

10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

Saturday 16th September: 10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

Next Sunday 17th September: Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost: Exodus 14:19-31;

Psalm 114; Romans 14:1-14; Matthew 18:21-35

Christ Church, Kilmore	9.00am	Morning Prayer
St Matthew's, Broadford	9.00am	Holy Eucharist
St Stephen's, Tallarook	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Transfiguration, Pyalong	11.00am	Holy Eucharist

Weekly Scripture Readings

	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer
Monday 11th September	Ps 28; 29	Ps 30; 32
<i>Mother Esther CHN</i>	1 Kings 7:51-8:21	Job 11
	Acts 26:19-32	1 John 4:1-12
Tuesday 12th September	Ps 31	Ps 33
	1 Kings 8:22-36	Job 12
	Acts 27:1-12	1 John 4:13-21

Wednesday 13th September	Ps 35:1-17	Ps 35:18-29; 36
<i>Cyprian of Carthage</i>	1 Kings 8:37-53	Job 13
	Acts 27:13-32	1 John 5:1-12
Thursday 14th September	Ps 98	Ps 56
<i>Holy Cross</i>	Deuteronomy 21:22-23	Isaiah 63:1-9
	Philippians 2:5-11	John 12:20-36
Friday 15th September	Ps 37:1-17	Ps 37:18-41
<i>John Oliver Feetham</i>	1 Kings 9:1-14	Job 15:1-16
	Acts 28:1-16	2 John
Saturday 16th September	Ps 38	Ps 39
<i>Ninian of Galloway</i>	1 Kings 9:15-28	Job 15:17-35
	Acts 28:27-31	3 John

Parish Contacts

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**Facebook page link: <https://www.facebook.com/AnglicanKilmore/>
or you can type in Anglican Parish of Kilmore Facebook into the
search bar and it should come up. It's also on the link Services
Online on the website.**

Thoughts for the Week

The other day, I saw a line of children walking out of school, and nearly half of them were wearing headphones. Or earmuffs. It's hard to distinguish these days, with most people sporting cordless earbuds to listen to music. These were bulky headphones, obviously designed to lessen auditory stimulation for children susceptible to sensory overload. As a neurodivergent myself, I get it. My question, though, is: what sort of a world do we now live in where children have little choice but to wear what tradies do when operating a jackhammer, just to be able to withstand daily outside interaction? You can't change neurodiversity, or sensory susceptibility. But you can change the context around them. It must be possible, because this was the world when I was a kid, I would have been wearing noise-cancelling headphones as well. The fact that I didn't have to in those days, says something about the flux of the world. Everything is too loud, both physically and spiritually. Overstimulation is rife. Consider the increase in the consumption of caffeinated drinks; not only coffee, but energy drinks as well. Everyone is over-medicated and under-regulated; that is, no one takes charge of their attitudes or behaviour, but simply pops a pill, or sticks a smoking implement in their mouths to compensate. Everything is on a screen, and different parts of the brain are engaged where they weren't before; critical and regulatory thinking are put on the backburner, and visual reception goes into overload. Nothing is filtered, it's all just absorbed, and surface thoughts and sensations take precedence. Imagination is dead. Artistic expression is increasingly derivative, and it's not even the public's fault; Mickey Mouse got into bed with Spider-Man and Darth Vader, and now the same company rules three media empires as one. Ask people about the Christian concept of eternal life, they won't have a clue; but they believe in the 'multiverse', which is literally just a cop out for 'we can't write good no more'. Every third minute of visual media online is advertising. Every childhood folk tale has become a 'woke tale', missing the point of the original story by a mile, while pushing perverse and fabricated cultural agendas to impressionable young minds, who at that stage in their lives need to learn to make their own life decisions, rather than follow a trend. Now that you mention it...pass the headphones, please.