



## 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023

### Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost



Hymns: 572(ii) 585 217 147

#### Sentence

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. (*Ephesians 2:8-9*)

#### The Collect

Loving and righteous God, your boundless generosity exceeds all that we can desire or deserve, and you give to the last worker all you promised to the first: liberate us from all jealousy and greed, that we may be free to love and serve others, and in your service may find our true reward; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### First Reading

*A reading from the book of Exodus, chapter 16, beginning at verse 2.*

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.' Then the Lord said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.' So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, 'In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?' And Moses said, 'When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.' Then Moses said to Aaron, 'Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, "Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining." 'And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, "At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am

the Lord your God.” In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, ‘What is it?’ For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, ‘It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

*Hear the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 105, verses 37-45*

**R: Give thanks to the Lord, and call upon his name.**

Then he brought Israel out with silver and gold, and there was no one among their tribes who stumbled. Egypt was glad when they departed, for dread of them had fallen upon it. He spread a cloud for a covering, and fire to give light by night. **R...**

They asked, and he brought quails, and gave them food from heaven in abundance. He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed through the desert like a river. For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham, his servant. **R...**

So he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing. He gave them the lands of the nations, and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples, that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws. Praise the Lord! **R...**

### **Second Reading**

*A reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians, chapter 1, beginning at verse 21.*

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

*Hear the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

Jesus said: 'The last will be first, and the first will be last.'

**Alleluia!**

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, chapter 20, beginning at the 1<sup>st</sup> verse.*

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

*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.**

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

### **Baptism**

Congratulations to Halle, Lola and Levi on their baptism into the Body of Christ. We will keep the Whitley family in our prayers.

### **Bible Study**

Our next Bible Study session is Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September, at 7.30pm, at Christ Church Kilmore. All are welcome to join, as we continue our journey through Jeremiah.

### **Blessing of the Animals**

At 9am on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> of October, at Christ Church Kilmore, there will be a service of Blessing of the Animals to mark the feast of St Francis. Please bring along your furry friends (or stuffed toys) for a blessing.

### **Art Show**

Brunswick Uniting Church in Melbourne is having an art exhibition called 'Living Colour'. Fr. David has entered six artworks amongst a whole host of local talent. The exhibition will be from Friday 13<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, at Brunswick Uniting Church on Sydney Road, Brunswick.

### **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 25<sup>th</sup> September:** 10am-12pm Op Shop Trading

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September:** 2.30pm Dianella RACF Service

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September:** 10am Mass, St Matthew's Broadford

10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September:** 10.30am: Blue Cross RACF Service

10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September:** 10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

<b>Next 1<sup>st</sup> October: Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost:</b> Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32		
Christ Church, Kilmore	9.00am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthew's, Broadford	11.00am	Holy Eucharist
St Stephen's, Tallarook	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Transfiguration, Pyalong	---	---

## Weekly Scripture Readings

	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Ps 62; 63	Ps 64; 67
<i>Sergius of Moscow</i>	1 Kings 13:1-19	Job 21:1-16
	Matthew 6:16-24	Ephesians 4:17-28
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Ps 65; 70	Ps 66
<i>Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop of Winchester</i>	1 Kings 13:20-34	Job 21:17-34
	Matthew 6:25-7:5	Ephesians 4:29-5:5

<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Ps 68:1-20	Ps 68:21-35
<i>St Vincent de Paul</i>	1 Kings 14:1-18	Job 22:1-22
	Matthew 7:6-23	Ephesians 5:6-20
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Ps 71	Ps 119:65-88
	1 Kings 14:19-5:8	Job 22:23-23:17
	Matthew 7:24-8:4	Ephesians 5:21-33
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Ps 34	Ps 148
<i>St Michael and All Angels</i>	Isaiah 6:1-7	Daniel 9:21-26;10:1-21
	Acts 12:1-11	Revelation 8:1-6
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Ps 72	Ps 73
<i>St Jerome</i>	1 Kings 15:25-16:7	Job 24:18-25:6
	Matthew 8:23-34	Ephesians 6:10-24

### **Parish Contacts**

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### **Parish Wardens:**

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**Julie Wallis, 71 Main Rd, Tallarook, Ph 5792 2854**

**Glenn McKenzie, 13 Station Street, Pyalong, Mobile 0452420958**

**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

Does following a religion make you dumb? One of the arguments against Christianity is that it's a cult that demands blind obedience from its followers, and that Christians are incapable of independent thought. On the contrary: when executed properly, Christian worship and practice is a healthy exercise of not only one's intellect, but also one's critical thinking ability, and one's moral compass. A God that is not seen but perceived experientially also requires an exercise of one's imaginative capabilities to foster a sense of the numinous. Does that mean God's not real? Again, on the contrary: God requires more than surface level attention, discernment and perception in order to *make the most of what He's got to say to us*. You know: listening. People might think they're pretty clever not reading the Bible or praying coming to church, but are they really? Religion, rather than aiming to 'dumb people down' is actually (historically) responsible for a higher standard of education. It's not only about browsing the scriptures night and day, but education based on and facilitated by religion encourages structured learning and socialisation. A good preacher won't call down fire and brimstone on your head; nor will they necessarily feather a particular social or cultural nest in order to appease the status quo. A good preacher will *educate you* by getting you to think critically about what you're doing. A good preacher will teach you to listen to the periphery of your situation, in aid of making informed and constructive life decisions. As a general rule, a good preacher will ideally start by teaching you the phrase: 'just because you can, doesn't mean you should.' That's the basis of a good education; no fire, no brimstone, just common sense. Something which the majority of the world seems to lack at present. Don't believe me? Just take a good hard look at the world around you. Take a look, and tell me honestly, whether or not you think the rejection of structured moral education is an intelligent choice. Do you need to be religious to come to church? Absolutely not. You just have to notice things need to change, and be curious for ways of how to change them; for yourself, for your family, for your friends, and for society in general. And we can all learn and share and grow together.