



19th November 2023

Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost



Hymns: 414 131 122 408

Sentence

God has not destined us for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other.

(1 Thessalonians 5:9,11)

The Collect

Ever living God, before the earth was formed, and even after it shall cease to be, you are God. Break into our short span of life and show us those things that are eternal, that we may serve your purpose in all we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

A reading from the book of Judges, chapter 4, beginning at verse 1.

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly for twenty years. At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgement. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, 'The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, "Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand."' ' Barak said to her, 'If you will go with me, I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go.' And she said, 'I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.' Then Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh. Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; and ten thousand warriors went up behind him; and Deborah went up with him.

*Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 123

R: We lift up our eyes to the Lord.

To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he has mercy upon us. **R...**

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud. **R...**

Second Reading

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians, chapter 5, beginning at verse 1.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Well done, good and faithful servant, you have been faithful with a little, and will be trusted with much. **Alleluia!**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, chapter 25, beginning at the fourteenth verse.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

‘For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Prayers of the People

Gracious God, you are the giver of all good things. Yet we are so quick to misuse your gifts. Here us when we ask for mercy upon all who are hurting or troubled.

We pray for those whose lives are marred by war, corruption, civil unrest and disaster. For those at the mercy of unjust leadership, those persecuted for their faith or culture, and victims of racial prejudice. Bring your people back together, and stop them from tearing each other apart.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for communities where there is disagreement, division, or even hostility. We pray for your holy church to be a pinnacle of justice and moral fortitude, and a place of peace where there is animosity between neighbours.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for families that are struggling to make ends meet. For those in poverty, the unemployed, the overworked, and for relationships harmed by domestic violence and substance abuse. We pray that all children may be kept safe from abuse and other negative influences on their wellbeing.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who hear your word, and express it creatively. For all artists, writers, performers and all whose vocation it is to make meaning from human experience. May their message inspire a greater recognition of you in the lives of their audience. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick and suffering, in body, mind or spirit; those in hospital, those undergoing treatment, and those who grapple with chronic pain or mental illness. We remember those who have asked for our prayers: *Jonathan and Limor Rose, Jeanne Jones, Kai Bolton, Bill Edge, Sharon and John Simpson, Anni Grimwade, Madeline Allen, Elaine Haddock, Belinda Shannon, Jim Chatz, Barry and Val Watts, Gwen Bushell, Debbie Chilcott, Beryl and Geoff Kirby, Fiona Mctier, David Valentine, Peg and Ken Raeburn, Bishop John Parkes, Edie Simpson, Bruce Seaman, Thomas De Sousa, Mary Cassar, Vince Fazio, and Adeline Bickley.*

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who mourn, and for the repose of those they have lost. May they find repose in the eternal kingdom. Bless all who are in grief, and surround them with a community of help and support. We bring to mind those we have lost recently, and those whose year's mind occurs at this time: *James Patton, Aaron Ray, Sammy Marshall, Ronald Brown, Elsie Bardella, Salvatore Xuereb, Reg Walter, Frank Stevenson, Irene Muller, Harriet Ashton, Albert Newbold and Thelma Wajsbrum.* Lord, in your mercy. **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

Garden Working Bee

There will be a working bee in the rectory garden at Kilmore on Tuesday November 21st. If you are able to lend a hand in tidying up the garden, please bring gardening gloves, weeding and pruning equipment, hats and water bottles. You're welcome to join from about 9am, though any time you can spare is appreciated.

Bible Study – Advent

We will be having an Advent Bible Study on Tuesday November 28th, December 5th, December 12th and December 19th. This will be at 7.30pm at Christ Church Kilmore (while we take a holiday break from Jeremiah). We will be looking at the beginning of Luke's gospel, and the events leading up to the Birth of Jesus. All are welcome.

Parish AGM and Annual Reports

We will be holding our AGM on Wednesday December 15th at 5.30pm, in lieu of Parish Council. Please can all those responsible for annual parish reports, get these to Caroline as soon as possible please. Reports are required from: Christ Church, St Matthew's, St Stephen's, Transfiguration, Gavan Hall, St Matthew's Village, Op Shop, Treasurer, Parish Council, Parish Priest, Publicity, Gardening Group, St Matthew's Friendship Group. Thank you.

Carols in the Carpark, Broadford

The Broadford Ecumenical Committee is organising community carols in the carpark between St Matthew's and Gavan Hall. The carol service will be Friday 22nd December, starting from 6pm. BYO picnic with blanket or folding chairs as necessary, while tea and coffee will be provided from Gavan Hall. All are welcome.

Love in Action

Families we serve are feeling the stress of the season to provide for their kids at Christmas. If you would like to sponsor a child for Christmas whereby you are prepared to buy a new and decent gift, please contact Barbara Radford (0412 287 306). Love in Action needs to have these gifts delivered by December 1st. Alternatively, you can provide a donation to the Love in Action bank account for the volunteers to purchase the gift. Christmas foods are also needed for hampers, including lollies, chocolates, tins of shortbread or biscuits, nuts, chips, Christmas serviettes, etc. Many thanks for your support.

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 20th November: 10am-12pm Op Shop Trading
Tuesday 21st November: 9am Working Bee, Rectory Garden
Wednesday 22nd November: 2.30pm: Dianella RACF service
Thursday 23rd November: NO MASS at Broadford
 10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading
Friday 24th November: 10.30am: Blue Cross RACF service
 10am-4pm: Op Shop Trading
Saturday 25th November: 10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

Next Sunday: Christ the King (Christ Church feast of title) 26th November: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46		
Christ Church, Kilmore	9.00am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthew's, Broadford	11.00am	Morning Prayer
St Stephen's, Tallarook	11.00am	Holy Eucharist
Transfiguration, Pyalong	---	---

Weekly Scripture Readings

	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer
Monday 20th November	Ps 48	Ps 49
	2 Kings 19:1-20	Ecclesiastes 3:10-22
	Matthew 24:32-51	Revelation 6:12-7:8
Tuesday 21st November	Ps 50	Ps 119:41-64
	2 Kings 19:20-37	Ecclesiastes 4
	Matthew 25:1-13	Revelation 7:9-17
Wednesday 22nd November	Ps 51	Ps 52; 53
	2 Kings 20	Ecclesiastes 5:1-12
	Matthew 25:14-30	Revelation 8

Thursday 23rd November	Ps 54; 55:1-12	Ps 55:13-28
<i>Clement of Rome</i>	2 Kings 21:1-18	Ecclesiastes 5:13-6:9
	Matthew 25:31-46	Revelation 9:1-12
Friday 24th November	Ps 56; 57	Ps 60; 61
	2 Kings 21:19-22:11	Ecclesiastes 6:10-7:13
	Mark 1:1-13	Revelation 9:13-21
Saturday 25th November	Ps 62; 63	Ps 64; 67
<i>James Noble</i>	2 Kings 22:12-23:3	Ecclesiastes 7:14-29
	Mark 1:14-28	Revelation 10

Parish Contacts

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Parish Wardens:

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

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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

Was Jesus a nice guy? Was he a party animal? Do you think he'd let loose at any given social occasion? Is there something in the scriptures for you that suggests as much? Or perhaps there's something in the scriptures which may lead you to believe the opposite. That Jesus was demure, dour even; serious or intense. Our Lord does move a lot amongst people, speaking to them quite readily and openly. He is unafraid to tell people when they are in the wrong. He doesn't beat about

the bush. Which kind of Christ do you want to find? Or perhaps: which kind of Christ do you think the world needs? One that is laidback and fun, or stern and disciplinary? It's a given that many of us don't like being told what to do, and generally prefer things to be light and lazy. These are pertinent questions, not only because they help us locate who we see Jesus as, but also because it gives us a benchmark of what makes a viable minister, and indeed a viable Christian. Recently, I was complimented as being 'the most approachable priest we think we've ever met'. And I thought to myself, I'm very glad to receive such a compliment, because it speaks more volumes than meets the eye. It doesn't settle for just 'nice' or 'warm', nor does it necessarily mean that one is straightforward to the point of being boring. It says something about one's ability to engage with others, and the availability for them to engage with you. It speaks of professionalism, but also humanity. I think it's a standard to which we can all aspire. Whatever your view on the Saviour and his character, chilled or serious, I believe we can all agree that he was approachable. People trusted him to be both caring and professional; wise, yet bespoke in his teaching, without being haphazard. If you aim to apply one adjective to your ministry as a Christian (it's not just the priest's job!), aim to be approachable. Be capable, trustworthy and understanding, without overstepping relational boundaries, without being distant, yet also without being a target for emotional and spiritual vampires. The letter to the Ephesians speaks of putting on the full armour of God; I believe we can also name this armour 'approachability'.