

COLLECT, READINGS AND REFLECTION
3 July 2022, 3rd Sunday after Trinity

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you have broken the tyranny of sin
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts
whereby we call you Father:
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,
that we and all creation may be brought
to the glorious liberty of the children of God;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 66.1–8

- 1 Be joyful in God, all the earth; ♦
sing the glory of his name; sing the glory of his praise.
- 2 Say to God, 'How awesome are your deeds! ♦
Because of your great strength your enemies shall bow before you.
- 3 'All the earth shall worship you, ♦
sing to you, sing praise to your name.'
- 4 Come now and behold the works of God, ♦
how wonderful he is in his dealings with humankind.
- 5 He turned the sea into dry land; the river they passed through on foot; ♦
there we rejoiced in him.
- 6 In his might he rules for ever; his eyes keep watch over the nations; ♦
let no rebel rise up against him.
- 7 Bless our God, O you peoples; ♦
make the voice of his praise to be heard,
- 8 Who holds our souls in life ♦
and suffers not our feet to slip.

A reading from St Paul's letter to the Galatians 6.7-16

6 ⁷ Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. ⁸If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. ⁹So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

¹¹ See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! ¹²It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. ¹⁴May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! ¹⁶As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, **Alleluia.**

The word of God is alive and active: it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to **Luke, Chapter 10.1–11,16–20**

Glory to you, O Lord.

10After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ²He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. ³Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" ⁶And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."¹⁰But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹"Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near."

¹⁶ 'Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.'

¹⁷ The seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!' ¹⁸He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. ¹⁹See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. ²⁰Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

A Reflection from Peter....

Over the centuries one of the greatest challenges for Christians could be summed up in the question, "What do we do now?" That is to say, things change; society evolves; politics, economics, peoples' expectations – they are not the same as they were in the days of the early church. For some, the answer is simple: we do what it says in the Bible. But even those who are most committed to this approach find ways of doing some things differently! St Paul is, for instance, adamant that women must cover their heads in church – and, until comparatively recently, they did (and, in some traditions they still do). The usual approach is to say that we had misunderstood what the particular verse of scripture meant – and then we can quickly become bogged down in a morass of competing interpretations of scripture. Today's Gospel reading helps us think about these things. The description of Jesus sending the disciples out in pairs ahead of him is a familiar one. Today, the most obvious parallel would be Jehovah's Witnesses or Mormons whom we often see working together in pairs. But our Gospel passage is interested in something much more exciting than effective missionary strategies. One line is repeated: 'the kingdom of God has come near to you!' This sounds rather like the Cazoo advert about ordering a car from your armchair and having it delivered to your front door: the kingdom of God you ordered has arrived! But this is very different. What has arrived is Jesus, the image of the invisible God, our way, our life and our truth. The pairs of disciples are effective signs of the presence of God. The phrase, 'The kingdom of God has come near you' doesn't mean much until you meet people who are evidently citizens of that kingdom; people in whom the life of God is real and overflowing. Today's Gospel invites us to ask ourselves 'Am I, and are we together, so full of the life of God that we are signs of God's kingdom?' And if we have to admit that we're not sure then remember that God never stops longing for us and inviting us to discover again the joy that comes from entrusting ourselves to God in Christ.