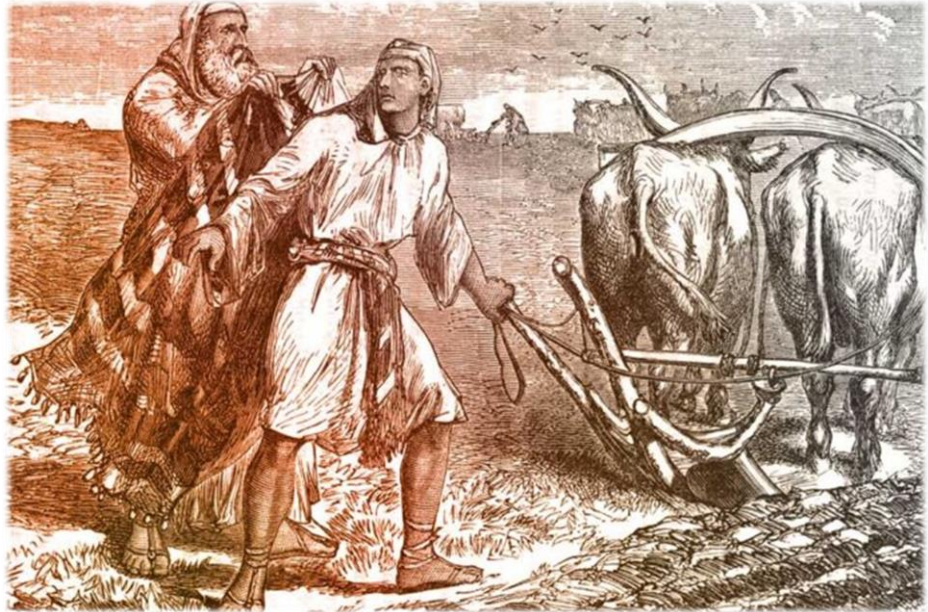


The second Sunday after TRINITY

29TH June
2025

In the name of the + Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.



The Greeting

Grace, mercy, and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

HYMN

All for Jesus--all for Jesus,
this our song shall ever be;
for we have no hope, nor Saviour,
if we have not hope in thee

All for Jesus--at thine altar
thou wilt give us sweet content;
there, dear Lord, we shall receive thee
in the solemn sacrament.

All for Jesus--thou wilt give us
strength to serve thee, hour by hour,
none can move us from thy presence,
while we trust thy love and power.

All for Jesus--thou hast loved us;
all for Jesus--thou hast died;
all for Jesus--thou art with us;
all for Jesus crucified.

All for Jesus--all for Jesus--
this the Church's song must be;
till, at last the flock is gathered
one in love and one in thee.

Invitations to Confession

The gospel calls us to turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ. As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith, we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy

Father Eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought, in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your son Jesus Christ who died for us,
forgive us all that is past; and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light.
Amen

Absolution

The almighty and merciful Lord
grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins
time for amendment of life
and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit
Amen

The Collect

Lord, you have taught us
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:
send your Holy Spirit
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

A reading from the Old Testament
1 Kings 19 15-16, 19-end

15 The Lord said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. 16 Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet.

The Call of Elisha

19 So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was ploughing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. 20 Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. "Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye," he said, "and then I will come with you."

"Go back," Elijah replied. "What have I done to you?"

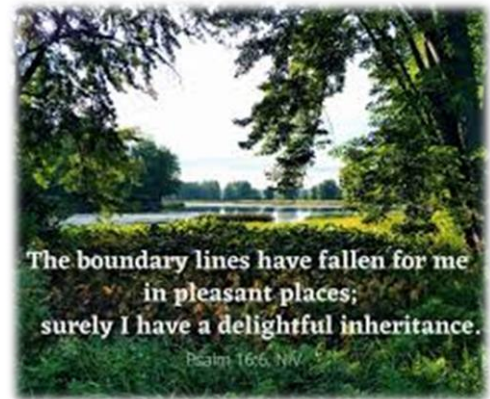
21 So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the ploughing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his servant.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 16

- 1 Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
- 2 I say to the Lord, 'You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you.'
- 3 As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble,
in whom is all my delight.
- 4 Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;
their drink-offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.

5 The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
 you hold my lot.
 6 The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
 I have a goodly heritage.
 7 I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
 in the night also my heart instructs me.
 8 I keep the Lord always before me;
 because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
 my body also rests secure.
 10 For you do not give me up to Sheol,
 or let your faithful one see the Pit.
 11 You show me the path of life.
 In your presence there is fullness of joy;
 in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.



A reading from the New Testament
 Galatians 5. 1, 13-25

5 1 For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. 13 For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. 14 For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' 15 If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

The Works of the Flesh

16 Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, 21 envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

The Fruit of the Spirit

22 By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord
 Thanks be to God

HYMN

Immortal love, forever full,
 forever flowing free,
 forever shared, forever whole,
 a never ebbing sea!

But warm, sweet, tender, even yet,
 a present help is he;
 and faith still has its Olivet,
 and love its Galilee.

Our outward lips confess the name
all other names above;
love only knoweth whence it came,
and comprehendeth love.

The healing of his seamless dress
is by our beds of pain;
we touch him in life's throng and press,
and we are whole again.

We may not climb the heavenly steeps
to bring the Lord Christ down;
In vain we search the lowest deeps,
for him no depths can drown.

Through him the first fond prayers are said
our lips of childhood frame,
the last low whispers of our dead
are burdened with his Name.

O Lord and Master of us all,
whate'er our name or sign,
we own thy sway, we hear thy call,
we test our lives by thine.

The Gospel

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Your words are spirit Lord, and they are life
you have the message of eternal life
Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel is from the 9th chapter of Luke beginning at the 51st verse.

Glory to you O Lord

A Samaritan Village Refuses to Receive Jesus

51 When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. 52 And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; 53 but they did not receive him, because his face was set towards Jerusalem. 54 When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, 'Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?'] 55 But he turned and rebuked them. 56 Then [\[1\]](#) they went on to another village.

Would-Be Followers of Jesus

57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' 58 And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' 59 To another he said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' 60 But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.' 61 Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' 62 Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

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

Reflection

Elisha's call to follow Elijah is not like other prophetic calls in the Old Testament. There is no vision of angelic hosts like Isaiah or the burning bush of Moses. Elisha's call does not involve any direct encounter with God at all. Instead, it is the prophet Elijah who initiates his change in vocation.

It all feels very domestic and unexceptional. Elisha is just going about his daily work, walking behind the oxen ploughing, when Elijah walks up to him and throws his cloak around him. Quite what this may have signalled at that time we do not know. It may have been a recognised way of calling another to

follow, to become a companion or in Elisha's case, more of an apprentice. This was common among prophets.

Certainly, Elisha understood the significance. He is to be a follower and servant - a disciple, as it were -- of this holy man. Such an apprenticeship with the prophet likely implied succession. Later, after Elijah is taken up into heaven, Elisha will begin to exhibit prophetic powers, but when Elijah first calls Elisha, he calls him just to be a discipleship.

Elisha makes a complete break with his former life. It was a life of some substance; to own twelve oxen signified wealth. Elijah's question, "Go back, for what have I done to you?" may be a rhetorical rebuke, but it may also be a question for which Elisha, at least for himself, must provide a real answer. What claim does this call make on his life? What ties must he leave behind?

He slaughters the oxen that had previously provided his livelihood; has a farewell feast for his family -- and leaves. This is a powerful statement of vocational commitment. There is no going back to his former way of life.

It is thus understandable if Elisha's call brings to mind New Testament accounts of the calls of Jesus' disciples. All four Gospel accounts describe Jesus addressing the soon-to-be disciples with the call, "Follow me." With no hesitation, they put down their old work and take up this new vocation. It can seem absurd in its abruptness. Where is the risk assessment? Where is the accounting of their savings or their retirement portfolios? Why aren't they holding out for 2.5 children and a house on a cul-de-sac instead?

A commitment to discipleship requires an about-face, a total turn away from the world's values and toward God's. The Bible witnesses to the nature of this call again and again, be it in the story of Moses and the burning bush, of Elisha under Elijah's mantle, or of the disciples' setting down their nets. I am reminded of the hymn "I have decided to follow Jesus," which sums up this commitment to discipleship in starkly poignant terms: "The world behind me, the cross before me, no turning back, no turning back."

The months and years of our lives quickly pass -- we have limited time, and Paul tells us that we must redeem the time that we have -- take hold of it and use it well.

Elijah was not with Elisha for long, nor Jesus with the disciples, but both he and they and we were called with 'succession in mind'. The mantle has passed to us.

What have we done with our lives since we have responded to the call of Christ? This is not a question to cause us to stress, but we are to respond.

People often say, "If I knew the will of God I would do it." as if God makes it difficult. But really, we know. Being a disciple by its very nature implies relationship, a sharing of our lives. Being sensitive to what the other is saying or showing us, and we have the added advantage of the continuous presence of the Holy Spirit as our guide.

It is not hard therefore, to know. Prayer and study of God's word; the willingness to do what often is so obvious and 'beneath our hand' and we sometimes choose to ignore (write the letter, make the call, give the money); determine to live in love with all as much as lies within us, quickly forgiving and asking forgiveness, 'to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God'.

I find that it is most usually not a question of what I should do but what will I do. Jesus said if you love me, you will obey me -- I often forget that bit.

But there is always a fresh start – a new beginning – the call is always there. Courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day, saying, "Tomorrow I will try again."

*Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not, from henceforth thou shalt catch men.
And... they forsook all and followed him.*

Creed

We affirm our faith:

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven on earth is named.

We believe in God the son
who lives in our heart through faith,
and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit
who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God father, Son and Holy Spirit
Amen

Intercessions

We pray to our living and loving Lord, Jesus Christ.

Saviour of the world,
be present in all places of suffering, violence, and pain,
and bring hope even in the darkest night.
Inspire us to continue your work of reconciliation today.

Lord of the Church,
empower by your Spirit all Christian people,
and the work of your Church in every land.
Give us grace to proclaim the gospel joyfully in word and deed

Shepherd and Guardian of our souls,
guide and enable all who lead and serve this community
and those on whom we depend for our daily needs.
Grant that we may seek the peace and welfare of this place.

Great Physician,
stretch out your hand to bring comfort, wholeness and peace
to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.
Fill us with compassion, that we may be channels of your healing love.

Conqueror of death,
remember for good those whom we love but see no longer.
Help us to live this day in the sure and certain hope of your eternal victory.

Loving Saviour,
may all creation be held within your
merciful care and protection. Amen

Being made one by the power of the Spirit,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever.
Amen.

Blessings and Ending

The God of all grace
Who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus
Establish, strengthen, and settle you in the faith.
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit +
Be with you and remain with you always.
Amen

HYMN

All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew,
me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore
from his store
newborn worlds rise and adore.

Pride of man and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple fall to dust.
But God's power,
hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

Daily doth the almighty Giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

Still from man to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ, his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.