

SENTENCE

If you, O Lord, should note what we do wrong, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. *Psalm 130.3–4.*

THE COLLECT

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **AMEN.**

FIRST READING

Exodus 14.19-31

A reading from the book of Exodus

The angel of God, who had been travelling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other; so neither went near the other all night long. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. During the last watch of the night the Lord looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, 'Let's get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.' Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen.' Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing towards it, and the Lord swept them into the sea. The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen – the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived. But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. That day the Lord saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

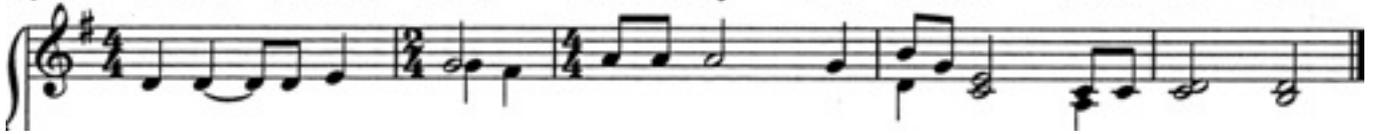
Psalm 114

Response: Judah became God's sanctuary and Israel his dominion.

Response

Andrew Moore

cf. v. 2 Ju-dah be-came God's sanc-tua-ry and Is-ra-el his do-mi - nion.



When Israel came out of Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of a strange tongue,
Judah became his sanctuary, Israel his dominion./R

The sea saw that, and fled; Jordan was driven back.
The mountains skipped like rams, the little hills like young sheep.
What ailed you, O sea, that you fled?
O Jordan, that you were driven back?
You mountains, that you skipped like rams,
you little hills like young sheep?/R

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
Who turns the hard rock into a pool of water,
the flint-stone into a springing well./R

SECOND READING

Romans 14.1-14

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

Paul urges his readers, 'Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarrelling over disputable matters. One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand. One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all

stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "Every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God." So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling-block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

We have an advocate, Jesus | Christ the righteous;
your sins are forgiven on account | of his name

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 18.21-35

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. 'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Holy God, your son showed us how to forgive and seek reconciliation as an act of holy love, grant us grace to live as a people of forgiveness and hope and forgive as we have been forgiven.

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

We pray for healing of your wounded world, for an end to ancient feuds, and religious hatred; for people of Syria and Iraq suffering at the hands of extremists; and for the UN Security Council tasked with responding to atrocities; for those seeking to control the Ebola outbreak in West Africa; for those commemorating the 7/11 attack on the Twin Towers, New York.

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

We pray for your church proclaiming God's forgiving love to a hurting world; we pray for an end to division and the progress of ecumenical and interfaith conversations; for the clergy of our Diocese and for our Bishop and our parish; help us to bring your reconciling love to those we meet; we pray for Alexis Jane Ward and Mason Ward called to baptism and for parents Brett and Carly.

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the healing of those wounded in our communities; for those suffering abuse and for those who would abuse others; for the well being of all especially the poor and the neglected; for the unemployed, for those anxious about find enough to eat and those with no place to call home; for refugees and asylum seekers and those held in detention.

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those suffering from disease of body, mind or spirit; for those living with chronic pain and we give thanks for those released from pain; for those nearing their life's end; for the sorrowful and those who grieve, for the Zytek and Farrell families; for those in need and those who have requested prayer;

Request for prayer from: *Chris Schafer, Glen Turnbull, Karen Goodger, Lyn Ryan, Alex Impols, May McCormack, Dawn McCormack, Cathy Moseley, & Melissa & family, Seth Gunther, David Parsons, Cliff & Gwen Stomann, Tom & Sandra Davidson & Bianca Davidson, Tom Scrivens, Dianne Mitsakis, Bruce Mitchell, Evette, Mark Bennetts, Barry Watts, Roland Nicholson, Monica Nicholson, Jeanne Jones.*

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Merciful and gracious God we remember your faithful people, who, throughout the ages have brought your reconciling love to your world; pray for the recently departed Leesa Zytek and Michael Farrell, and for those years mind occurring at this time.

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord, **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Year's mind: Today we remember before God those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time: 14th Desdemona Carter, George Anderson; 15th Dulcie Smith, Francis Treanor, David Damon; 16th Edward Chomely; 17th Kelly Oehm, Leslie Reynolds; 18th Herbert Jose; 19th William Bannon, Robert Green.

Loving God, your son taught that forgiveness is a holy action which reflects your forgiveness and grace offered to all; hear us as we pray for ourselves...; grant us the grace to be faithful to your calling as a forgiving people so that the whole world may know of your goodness and love.

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray; **Our Father in heaven.**

Reflections on the Readings

After last week's confrontation with evil, this week's emphasis is both surprising and elegant – the focus on forgiveness is clear in the readings and is the only appropriate response to evil if we are not to become what we oppose. The parable of the unforgiving servant is the centre around which all of the other readings rotate. The related Old Testament reading takes us into the story the people being led by Moses in the desert, and the punishment inflicted by God upon Israel's enemies. In the reading from Romans we approach the subject from a different even contradictory angle – that of not judging those who express their faith and live out the daily ramifications of faith differently from us. How are the words “peace” and “forgiveness” relevant in a world of war, crime, corruption and religious conflict? Last week's focus on resisting evil raises the challenge of how to stand against injustice and destruction without becoming what we resist. This week provides a strong answer to that challenge. In the last few months the world has seen war, terrorism and judgement on a massive scale. But, perhaps more disturbing, has been the discrimination, prejudice, stereotyping, vengefulness and violence breeding more violence that has followed close behind. In the face of all this, the call to forgive is more than just a call to deal with hurt feelings. It is a radical call for peacemaking, for ending the cycle of violence, and for refusing to exact retribution even on those who hurt us. Further, this week's readings call us to re-examine how we view God as depicted in Exodus as a violent overlord, or, through the eyes of Jesus as a non-violent peacemaker, how we view other people of faith, refusing to impose our practices and conscience on others, but giving them the freedom to find and follow God according to their own conscience – or, perhaps, even religion and how we view ourselves. This call for forgiveness goes against our angry, human quest for “justice” and “retribution”, it does not satisfy or heal us of the deep wounds that enemies have inflicted on us. But, it does ensure that we do not make the hurt worse, for ourselves or others or for our world. It does ensure that healing can come. And it does challenge us to take the difficult, but transforming call of the Gospel seriously.

Notices

Parish BBQ today 12.30pm @ Len & Robyn Whitehouse, 4 Kurkurac Court, High Camp.

Baptism 2pm at Christ Church today - please come and make Alexis and Mason welcome to our community.

St Matthew's Friendship Group 1.30pm Tuesday 16th Sept @ Gavan Hall.

Parish Council meets 7.30pm Wednesday 17th September @ Christ Church

St Matthew's Feast of Title - next Sunday 11am Parish Eucharist. There will be 8am Eucharist at Christ Church for those unable to attend.

Bunning BBQ Saturday 27th September. Helpers required for the BBQ - 2 hours afternoon slots. Please see Sharner Mitchell roster coordinator.

Parish Fete 25th October - Carolynne Noonan will take on fete coordination for this year, and this is most welcome. Carolynne has some wonderful ideas and will full be briefed this week. If you have played a role or managed a stall in the past please make contact with Carolynne 0404 328 827 and let her know what you will be doing - watch the website for updates.

Faith Enhancement Study Group meets Friday 26th September 7pm at 13 The Parade, Broadford. All welcome to explore our faith in a safe space - new study "Living the Questions".

Direct Debit Offerings - Parish Account details: CBA Account Name 'Kilmore Anglican Parish'. BSB 063-698. Account Number 1018 4649.

Parish Diary

1st Wed of the month: Property Committee Meeting 7.30pm (venue TBA)

1st Fri of the month: Faith Enhancement Study 7.00pm 13 The Parade, Broadford.

2nd Sun of the month: Parish BBQ - 12.30pm. See Notices for details

3rd Tues of the month: St Matthew's Friendship Group. Gavan Hall 1.30pm contact Edie Simpson ph. 5784 1246 for details.

3rd Wed of the month: Parish Council Meeting, 7.30 pm venue TBA

3rd Fri of the month: Faith Enhancement Study 7.00pm 13 The Parade, Broadford

4th Thurs of month: Christ Church Friendship Group 7.30pm contact Beris Hannam ph. 5723 9737 for program details

4th Sunday of month: Church 4 Kids 5-6.30pm @ Christ Church

