

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*Who is my neighbour?*

There was a lawyer who, to disconcert Jesus, stood up and said to him, 'Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' He replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.' 'You have answered right,' said Jesus, 'do this and life is yours'.

But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of brigands; they took all he had, beat him and then made off, leaving him half dead. Now a priest happened to be travelling down the same road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite who came to the place saw him, and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion when he saw him. He went up and bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then lifted him on to his own mount, carried him to the inn and looked after him. Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said "and on my way back I will make good any extra expense you have." Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into brigands' hands?' 'The one, who took pity on him', he replied. Jesus said to him, 'Go, and do the same yourself'.

#### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

10 JULY 2022

## CREATION BORN ANEW

The unifying theme of today's readings is being at peace with God, oneself and others. For Deuteronomy, the call is to find peace through faithfulness to the Mosaic law. While the challenge seems daunting, it is possible. The Gospel expands this by calling us to find true peace by loving our neighbour. The parable of the Good Samaritan challenges us to see that it is not a question of determining who my neighbour is, as much as to whom I can be a neighbour.

The reading from the letter to Colossians is one of the Church's earliest hymns and it is a powerful and beautiful reflection on the place of Jesus in God's saving plan. In the light of the resurrection, the first Christians quickly came to see that what had happened in Jesus of Nazareth could not be limited to his earthly ministry. It had become impossible to speak of God's plan of salvation without seeing Jesus as its centre and lynchpin. Paul sees Jesus as the unifying and life-giving force behind all of creation. While the hymn stresses the pride of place that Jesus has in God's saving plan as well as his lordship of all creation, the place and role of the cross is not forgotten. Peace and reconciliation have been achieved through Jesus' blood. It is on the cross, as nowhere else, that Jesus is Lord of all creation, and it is here that creation is born anew.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## FIRST READING

Deut 30:10-14

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

*Let the instruction of the Lord God be near you.*

Moses said to the people: 'Obey the voice of the Lord your God, keeping those commandments and laws of his that are written in the Book of this Law, and you shall return to the Lord your God with all your heart and soul.

'For this Law that I enjoin on you today is not beyond your strength or beyond your reach. It is not in heaven, so that you need to wonder, "Who will go up to heaven for us and bring it down to us, so that we may hear it and keep it?" Nor is it beyond the seas, so that you need to wonder, "Who will cross the seas for us and bring it back to us, so that we may hear it and keep it?" No, the Word is very near to you, it is in your mouth and in your heart for your observance.'

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 68:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36-37. R. cf. v. 33

**R. Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.**

1. This is my prayer to you, / my prayer for your favour. / In your great love, answer me, O God, / with your help that never fails: Lord, answer, for your love is kind; / in your compassion, turn towards me. **R.**
2. As for me in my poverty and pain / let your help, O God, lift me up. / I will praise God's name with a song; / I will glorify him with thanksgiving. **R.**
3. The poor when they see it will be glad / and God-seeking hearts will revive; / for the Lord listens to the needy / and does not spurn his servants in their chains. **R.**
4. For God will bring help to Zion / and rebuild the cities of Judah. / The sons of his servants shall inherit it; / those who love his name shall dwell there. **R.**



## SECOND READING

Col 1:15-20

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

*All things were created through him and for him.*

Christ Jesus is the image of the unseen God and the first-born of all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers – all things were created through him and for him. Before anything was created, he existed, and he holds all things in unity. Now the Church is his body, he is its head. As he is the Beginning, he was first to be born from the dead, so that he should be first in every way; because God wanted all perfection to be found in him and all things to be reconciled through him and for him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, when he made peace by his death on the cross.

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Jn 6:63,68

**Alleluia, alleluia! Your words, Lord, are spirit and life; you have the words of everlasting life. Alleluia!**