

Luke 9:51-62

As the time drew near for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely took the road for Jerusalem and sent messengers ahead of him. These set out, and they went into a Samaritan village to make preparations for him, but the people would not receive him because he was making for Jerusalem. Seeing this, the disciples James and John said, 'Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to burn them up?' But he turned and rebuked them, and they went off to another village.

As they travelled along they met a man on the road who said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' Jesus answered, 'Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.'

Another to whom he said, 'Follow me', replied, 'Let me go and bury my father first.' But he answered, 'Leave the dead to bury their dead; your duty is to go and spread the news of the kingdom of God.'

Another said, 'I will follow you, sir, but first let me go and say goodbye to my people at home.' Jesus said to him, 'Once the hand is laid on the plough, no one who looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

Jesus needs courage to take the road to Jerusalem; he knew that he would suffer there and die. He also knew this way led to life; that is why he dared to lead others to follow him. His followers are, then, to abandon any seeming security, to prefer nothing to the work for the life of the kingdom. They are to journey onwards with resolution, not looking back at what they have left. (*Glenstal Bible Missal*)

## *Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C*

**26th June 2022**

*Nomads Following Christ*



*This week, we finally pick up Ordinary time (Yr. C) after having celebrated Lent, Easter and the subsequent feasts. We will now remain in Ordinary time, reading St Luke's Gospel, until Advent. We resume reading Luke from chapter nine. This is an important turning point in the Gospel. Up to now, Jesus has gathered his disciples around him and has announced God's reign. Peter has declared his faith in Jesus and Jesus has revealed his glory at the Transfiguration warning his disciples that the 'Son of Man' must suffer. Now, the Lord sets out on the road to Jerusalem; a journey which we will follow for the rest of the year. This journey isn't along a physical road, it is a spiritual journey leading to the cross & resurrection. Jesus' road is a turning to the Father. As Christians, this journey, must be our journey. We learn today, that we shouldn't be disheartened by rejection, but that we should look to God for life and that there should be urgency in our step.*

### **Opening Prayer**

O God, who through the grace of adoption chose us to be children of light, grant, we pray, that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error but always be seen to stand in the bright light of truth.

### **1 Kings 19:16,19-21**

The Lord said to Elijah, 'Go, you are to anoint Elisha son of Shaphat, of Abel Meholah, as prophet to succeed you.'

Leaving there, Elijah came on Elisha son of Shaphat as he was ploughing behind twelve yoke of oxen, he himself being with the twelfth. Elijah passed near to him and threw his cloak over him. Elisha left his oxen and ran after Elijah. 'Let me kiss my father and mother, then I will follow you' he said. Elijah answered, 'Go, go back; for have I done anything to you?' Elisha turned away, took the pair of oxen and slaughtered them. He used the plough for cooking the oxen, then gave to his men, who ate. He then rose, and followed Elijah and became his servant.

We dip into the First Book of Kings, which together with Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Samuel and Two Kings are historical books telling of the history of Israel beginning with the reign of David's Son, King Solomon (BC 970) to the destruction of Jerusalem in 587 by the Babylonians. Although much of the material is of ancient origin, it wasn't composed until after the event, completed around 538 - the return from exile. In today's passage we hear about the call of the prophet Elisha. Elijah symbolically takes possession of him by casting his cloak over him. Elisha destroys his previous means of livelihood by killing his oxen and cooking them over the fire, made from his plough. There is no looking back. This ties into the theme of today's Gospel – the urgency and constancy of following Jesus.

### **Psalm 15(16):1-2,5,7-11**

*Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. I say to the Lord: 'You are my God. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize.'*

*I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart.  
I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.  
And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety.  
For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay.*

*You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence,  
at your right hand happiness for ever.*

### **Galatians 5:1,13-18**

When Christ freed us, he meant us to remain free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery. My brothers, you were called, as you know, to liberty; but be careful, or this liberty will provide an opening for self-indulgence. Serve one another, rather, in works of love, since the whole of the Law is summarised in a single command: Love your neighbour as yourself. If you go snapping at each other and tearing each other to pieces, you had better watch or you will destroy the whole community.

Let me put it like this: if you are guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence, since self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit, the Spirit is totally against such a thing, and it is precisely because the two are so opposed that you do not always carry out your good intentions. **If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you.**

Paul's letter to the Galatians was written around the year 50 AD. Paul has been very successful in preaching the Gospel to the pagans and many have become believers, but then there followed certain Jewish converts, who claim that Paul has watered down the Gospel, thus making it more appealing, by omitting the obligation to the Jewish Law, especially circumcision. Paul is furious and argues that we are not saved by external acts or keeping the Law, but through God's free gift. It is through faith in the cross of Christ that we are saved.

***Alleluia Alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:  
you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!***

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

O God, who graciously accomplish the effects of your mysteries, grant, we pray, that the deeds by which we serve you may be worthy of these sacred gifts.

### **Prayer after Communion**

May this divine sacrifice we have offered and received fill us with life, O Lord, we pray, so that, bound to you in lasting charity, we may bear fruit that lasts for ever.