

The Living Word

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

3 July 2022

First Reading Is 66:10-14

I will send toward Jerusalem peace like a river.

Rejoice, Jerusalem,
be glad for her, all you who love her!
Rejoice, rejoice for her,
all you who mourned her!

That you may be suckled, filled,
from her consoling breast,
that you may savour with delight
her glorious breasts.
For thus says the Lord:

Now towards her I send flowing
peace, like a river,
and like a stream in spate
the glory of the nations.

At her breast will her nurslings be carried
and fondled in her lap.
Like a son comforted by his mother
will I comfort you.
And by Jerusalem you will be comforted.

At the sight your heart will rejoice,
and your bones flourish like the grass.
To his servants the Lord will reveal his hand.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 65:1-7. 16. 20. R. v.1

(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! (R.)
2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!'
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men. (R.)
3. He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. (R.)
4. Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul.
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me. (R.)

Second Reading Gal 6:14-18

The marks I carry on my body are those of Jesus Christ.

The only thing I can boast about is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. It does not matter if a person is circumcised or not; what matters is for him to become an altogether new creature. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, who form the Israel of God.

I want no more trouble from anybody after this; the marks on my body are those of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, my brothers. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation Col 3:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

**May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and the fullness of his message live within you.**

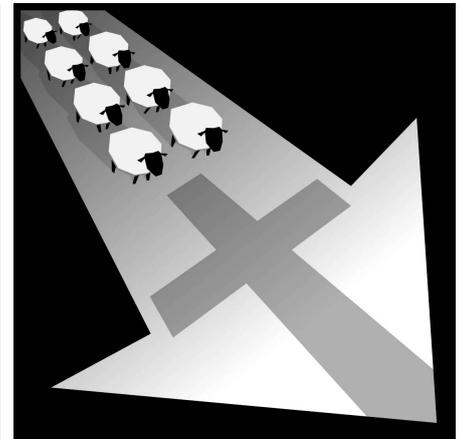
Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 10:1-12, 17-20 (or shorter form Lk 10:1-9)

Your peace will rest upon him.

The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them out ahead of him, in pairs, to all the towns and places he himself was to visit. He said to them, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest. Start off now, but remember, I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Carry no purse, no haversack, no sandals. Salute no one on the road. Whatever house you go into, let your first words be, "Peace to this house!" And if a man of peace lives there, your peace will go and rest on him; if not, it will come back to you. Stay in the same house, taking what food and drink they have to offer, for the labourer deserves his wages; do not move from house to house. Whenever you go into a town where they make you welcome, eat what is set before you. Cure those in it who are sick, and say, "The kingdom of God is very near to you." But whenever you enter a town and they do not make you welcome, go out into its streets and say, "We wipe off the very dust of your town that clings to our feet, and leave it with you. Yet be sure of this: the kingdom of God is very near." I tell you, that on that day it will not go as hard with Sodom as with that town.'

The seventy-two came back rejoicing. 'Lord,' they said, 'even the devils submit to us when we use your name.' He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Yes, I have given you power to tread underfoot serpents and scorpions and the whole strength of the enemy; nothing shall ever hurt you. Yet do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you; rejoice rather that your names are written in heaven.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

In Jewish tradition 'Satan' is the name given to the evil spirit who accuses and prosecutes human beings before God, demanding the strongest penalties, unmitigated by Mercy. Jesus had a vision in which he saw 'Satan fall like lightning from Heaven'. Who takes Satan's place?

The answer is the 'Paraclete', a Greek word for an Advocate. This is one of the roles of the Holy Spirit who pleads on our behalf for Mercy which, as Shakespeare put it, then falls on us 'as the gentle rain from Heaven'.

As disciples, we have to imitate the Paraclete, not Satan. We have to temper our drive to see 'the punishment fit the crime'. How often do we relish seeing a person squirm with no offer of a way out, no hint of mercy or forgiveness so that he or she can draw breath, undo some of the damage done, and get back on track to a better life?

We might pause for a moment to thank God that our names are not being listed by Satan in an indictment but rather, through the Holy Spirit, are being entered in the Book of the Saved so that we might 'Rejoice, for your names are written in Heaven'.

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Wordsearch

Try to find these words:

- | | | | |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|
| bless | harvest | lambs | village |
| drinking | heal | peace | welcome |
| greeting | house | sandals | workers |

I H W O D Y X Y S F E W J G U G W
 B G N I K N I R D S S X C R G N B
 J T R Y L Z H U D P E N P E O M D
 J E H M Y Y K X I U T L M E M O V
 L F L Q Z H L X X X N S B T N M B
 N S G S P F R L I I H N C I S Q C
 I W E D A O R W L A E H B N P K P
 V U Q Q K B Z M M P S G K G U G S
 L E X F S Z H K L R P J O Z T O S
 S E E Q U B P I E Q Y Z R S S O L
 R G C C V X M K G T D P E L R D A
 X A A O A C R A I D B V A I F A M
 A L E G E O V X L E R D M M T Y X
 C L P B W V X S J A N T T B R Z F
 Z I W W U J G O H A W E L C O M E
 U V Y D X E K V S Y E S U O H J R

St Maria Goretti was born in Ancona, Italy. She grew up on a farm with her mother and father and five brothers and sisters. In 1902 when she was only twelve years old, she was attacked by a nineteen year old farm hand. She survived in hospital for two days, forgave her attacker, asked God to forgive him and died holding a crucifix and a medal of Our Lady. She later appeared to her attacker in a vision while he was in prison. This led to his conversion and he later testified at her cause for beatification.

Unscramble the tiles below to find out what Jesus told his disciples to say when they entered people's homes.



Six empty rounded rectangular boxes for writing the unscrambled words.