

Trinity 4 (13th Sunday)

Opening Prayer

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord 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.**

Or

God, our heritage, grant to your people grace always to keep you in their sight, so that, being guided by the Spirit, those who follow you may do so without condition or compromise, in the assurance of faith and the gentleness of compassion. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 15

R: O Lord, it is you who are my portion.

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. **R**

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. **R**

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. **R**

You will show me the path of life,

The fullness of joy in your presence,

At your right hand happiness for ever. **R**

Second Reading

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel

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 good-bye 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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Prayer over the Gifts

O God, in the sacramental signs of bread and cup you bring about the work of our redemption. Grant that our worship and service may be worthy of what we are celebrating. Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Give us new life, O God, through the holy gifts we have here received, so that, united with you in perpetual love, we may bring forth a lasting fruit of holiness. This we ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

