

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Collect

God of the covenant,
in our baptism
you called us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom:
give us courage,
as you gave it to the apostles,
that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every
circumstance of life;
in the name of Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading

2 Kings 5.1-14

¹ Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favour with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. ² Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³ She said to her mistress, 'If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.' ⁴ So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. ⁵ And the king of Aram said, 'Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel.' He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. ⁶ He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, 'When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy.' ⁷ When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, 'Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me.' ⁸ But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king,

'Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel.' ⁹ So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, 'Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean.' ¹¹ But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, 'I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! ¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?' He turned and went away in a rage. ¹³ But his servants approached and said to him, 'Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, "Wash, and be clean"?' ¹⁴ So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

Psalm

Psalm 30

- ¹ I will exalt you, O Lord,
for you have drawn me up from the depths:
and have not suffered my foes to triumph over me.
- ² O Lord my God, I cried to you:
and you have made me whole.
- ³ You brought me back, O Lord, from the land of silence:
you saved my life
from among those that go down to the Pit.
- ⁴ Sing praises to the Lord, all you his faithful ones:
and give thanks to his holy name.
- ⁵ For if in his anger is havoc,
in his good favour is life:
heaviness may endure for a night,
but joy comes in the morning.
- ⁶ In my prosperity I said 'I shall never be moved:

your goodness, O Lord, has set me on so firm a hill.
7 Then you hid your face from me:
and I was greatly dismayed.
8 I cried to you, O God:
and made my petition humbly to my Lord.
9 'What profit is there in my blood,
if I go down to the Pit:
can the dust give you thanks,
or declare your faithfulness?
10 'Hear, O Lord, and be merciful:
O Lord, be my helper.'
11 You have turned my lamentation into dancing:
you have put off my sackcloth and girded me with joy,
12 That my heart may sing your praise and never be silent:
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

2nd Reading

Galatians 6.7-18

7 Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. 8 If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. 9 So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. 10 So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith. 11 See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! 12 It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. 13 Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. 14 May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! 16 As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. 17 From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I

carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. ¹⁸ May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

Gospel

Luke 10.1-12, 10.17-24

¹ After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ² He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. ³ Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴ Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" ⁶ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹ cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." ¹⁰ But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹ "Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near." ¹² I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town. ¹⁷ The seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!' ¹⁸ He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. ¹⁹ See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. ²⁰ Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.' ²¹ At that same hour Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the

intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²² All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.' ²³ Then turning to the disciples, Jesus said to them privately, 'Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! ²⁴ For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.'