

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Collect

O God,
the light of the minds that know you,
the life of the souls that love you,
the strength of the thoughts that seek you:
help us so to know you
that we may truly love you,
and so to love you
that we may fully serve you,
whose service is perfect freedom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

1st Reading

2 Kings 2.1-2, 2.6-14

¹ Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ² Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. ⁶ Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. ⁷ Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸ Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. ⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' ¹⁰ He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' ¹¹ As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of

them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹² Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. ¹³ He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴ He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, 'Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?' When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

Psalm

Psalm 77.1-2, 77.11-20

- ¹ I call to my God, I cry out toward him:
I call to my God, and surely he will answer.
- ² In the day of my distress I seek the Lord,
I stretch out my hands to him by night:
my soul is poured out without ceasing,
it refuses all comfort.
- ¹¹ I will declare the mighty acts of the Lord:
I will call to mind your wonders of old.
- ¹² I will think on all that you have done:
and meditate upon your works.
- ¹³ Your way, O God, is holy:
who is so great a god as our God?
- ¹⁴ You are the God that works wonders:
you made known your power among the nations;
- ¹⁵ By your mighty arm you redeemed your people:
the children of Jacob and Joseph.
- ¹⁶ The waters saw you, O God,
the waters saw you and were afraid:
the depths also were troubled.
- ¹⁷ The clouds poured out water, the heavens spoke:
and your arrows darted forth.
- ¹⁸ The voice of your thunder was heard in the whirlwind:
your lightnings lit the world,
the earth shuddered and quaked.

- ¹⁹ Your way was in the sea, your path in the great waters:
and your footsteps were not seen.
- ²⁰ You led your people like sheep:
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

2nd Reading

Galatians 5.1, 5.13-25

¹ For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. ¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' ¹⁵ If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. ¹⁶ Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Gospel

Luke 9.51-62

⁵¹ When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³ but they did not receive him, because his face was set towards Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, 'Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?' ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ Then they went on to another village. ⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' ⁵⁹ To another he said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' ⁶⁰ But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.' ⁶¹ Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' ⁶² Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'