

FIRST READING. 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

Then the Lord said to him, ‘Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.

So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was ploughing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, ‘Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.’ Then Elijah said to him, ‘Go back again; for what have I done to you?’ He returned from following him, took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

SECOND READING. Galatians 5:1, 13-25

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

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. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. 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. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, 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.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

GOSPEL. Luke 9:51-62

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set towards Jerusalem. 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?’ But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, ‘I will follow you wherever you go.’ 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.’ To another he said, ‘Follow me.’ But he said, ‘Lord, first let me go and bury my father.’ But Jesus said to him, ‘Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.’ Another said, ‘I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.’ Jesus said to him, ‘No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.’



Sunday, June 26, 2022

We have no good apart from God. That makes Jesus’s call to follow him an invitation to freedom. This is freedom to revel in the Spirit’s fruits: love, joy, peace and patience. This is freedom to not be imprisoned by anything that would keep us from the fullness of the life God has given us. This is the path of life.

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“In response to God’s love, St. Matthew’s is a faith community welcoming all to grow in faith, to worship Christ and to reach out to everyone.”

Welcome!

We are pleased to have members from First Lutheran join us this morning, and hope our worship will be a blessing us all.

COVID-19

Although mask mandates are now lifted in most Ontario indoor settings, our Bishop encourages “all congregations to continue using masks for the time being.” For now, we strongly recommend wearing a mask.

Thank you

Thank you, Jenn Rusk, for leading us in worship this morning, while Pastor Bart and Sharon take a well-deserved break.

If you missed last week’s sermon, it is available on our website.

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Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose steadfast love endures forever. Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.

Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves. Amen.

Psalm 16 - Tune 883, All People that on Earth Do Dwell (Old Hundredth)

The lines of the Psalm printed in bold font are sung in unison to the tune of a familiar hymn. The lines in plain font are read by the leader.

Protect me, God; my trust I place
Within the refuge of your grace.

Leader: I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the people.

The path of life to me you show;
Fullness of joy with you I know.

Those who run after other gods multiply their troubles. I will not take part in their sacrifices; I will not worship their gods.

Protect me, God; my trust I place
Within the refuge of your grace.

You, Lord, are all I have, and you give me all I need; my future is in your hands. How wonderful are your gifts to me; how good they are!

The path of life to me you show;
Fullness of joy with you I know.

I bless the Lord, because he guides me, and in the night my conscience warns me. I am always aware of the Lord's presence; he is near, and

nothing can shake me.

Protect me, God; my trust I place
Within the refuge of your grace.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit.

The path of life to me you show;
Fullness of joy with you I know.

Dates to Remember

June 16-27 Pastor Bart is on vacation. For pastoral emergencies please contact Jenn Rusk.

All types of food donations are welcome at Open Arms Mission.

Donation focus for June: Hygiene items - Diapers, baby products, first aid, soap, shaving cream/razors, deodorant, women’s hygiene, shampoo, toilet paper, etc.

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GospelLuke 9:51-62
“Praise to you, O Christ.”

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Hymn of the Day ...671 Shine, Jesus,
Shine

Prayers of Intercession
Prayer Response“hear our prayer.”
Peace (non-contact
gestures)

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Sending Song767 Lord, Take My
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Dismissal:
Go in peace. Love your neighbour.
Response: Thanks be to God.