

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 29, 2019

The Collect: O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Track 1 Old Testament: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 read from the God's Word Bible

32 The Lord spoke his word to Jeremiah during Zedekiah's tenth year as king of Judah. (This was Nebuchadnezzar's eighteenth year as king.) 2 At that time the army of the king of Babylon was blockading Jerusalem.

The prophet Jeremiah was locked up in the courtyard of the prison. This prison was in the palace of the king of Judah. 3 When King Zedekiah of Judah locked up Jeremiah,

6 Jeremiah said, "The Lord spoke his word to me. He said, 7 'Jeremiah, your cousin Hanamel, son of Shallum, is going to come to you and say, "Buy my field that is in Anathoth, because as the closest relative it is your responsibility to buy it.'"

8 "Then, as the Lord had said, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the courtyard of the prison. He said to me, 'Please buy my field that is in Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. It is your responsibility to purchase it, because the rights of the closest relative belong to you. Buy it for yourself.' Then I knew that the Lord had spoken to me.

9 "So I bought the field in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and gave him the money. The field cost seven ounces of silver. 10 I signed the deed, sealed it, had people witness the signing of the deed, and paid out the silver. 11 Then I took the sealed copy of the deed, containing the terms and conditions, as well as an unsealed copy. 12 I gave the copies of the deeds to Baruch, son of Neriah and grandson of Mahseiah. I did this in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and the witnesses who had signed the deed and in the presence of all the Jews who were sitting in the courtyard of the prison. 13 Then I gave Baruch these

orders: 14 'This is what the Lord of Armies, the God of Israel, says: Take both of these documents, both the sealed and the unsealed copies of the deed. Put them in a clay jar so that they will last a long time. 15 This is what the Lord of Armies, the God of Israel, says: My people will again buy houses, fields, and vineyards in this land.'

The Word of the Lord

Track 2 Old Testament: Amos 6:1a, 4-7 read from the God's Word Bible

How horrible it will be for those who are at ease in Zion,
for those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria,

4 How horrible it will be for those who sleep on ivory beds.

They sprawl out on their couches
and eat lambs from their flocks and calves from their stalls.

5 How horrible it will be for those who make up songs as they strum a harp.

Like David, they write all kinds of songs for themselves.

6 How horrible it will be for those who drink wine by the jugful.

They rub the finest oils all over themselves
and are not sorry for the ruin of the descendants of Joseph.

7 That is why they will now be the first to go into exile.

The celebrating of those sprawled around the banquet table will stop.

The Word of the Lord

Track 1 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer

1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, *
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.

2 He shall say to the Lord,
"You are my refuge and my stronghold, *
my God in whom I put my trust."

3 He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter *

and from the deadly pestilence.

- 4 He shall cover you with his pinions,
and you shall find refuge under his wings; *
his faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.
- 5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, *
nor of the arrow that flies by day;
- 6 Of the plague that stalks in the darkness, *
nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day.
- 14 Because he is bound to me in love,
therefore will I deliver him; *
I will protect him, because he knows my Name.
- 15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; *
I am with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and bring him to honor.
- 16 With long life will I satisfy him, *
and show him my salvation.

Track 2 Psalm 146 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer

- 1 Hallelujah!
Praise the Lord, O my soul! *
I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
- 2 Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, *
for there is no help in them.
- 3 When they breathe their last, they return to earth, *
and in that day their thoughts perish.
- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *

and food to those who hunger.

7 The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The Lord loves the righteous;
the Lord cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

9 The Lord shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

Epistle: 1 Timothy 6:6-19 read from the Holman Christian Standard Bible

6 But godliness with contentment is a great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into the world,
and we can take nothing out.

8 But if we have food and clothing,
we will be content with these.

9 But those who want to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

11 But you, man of God, run from these things,
and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith,
love, endurance, and gentleness.

12 Fight the good fight for the faith;
take hold of eternal life
that you were called to

and have made a good confession about
in the presence of many witnesses.

13 In the presence of God, who gives life to all, and of Christ Jesus, who gave a good
confession before Pontius Pilate, I charge you 14 to keep the command without fault or
failure until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15 God will bring this about in His own
time. He is

the blessed and only Sovereign,

the King of kings,

and the Lord of lords,

16 the only One who has immortality,

dwelling in unapproachable light;

no one has seen or can see Him,

to Him be honor and eternal might.

Amen.

17 Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be arrogant or to set their hope on
the uncertainty of wealth, but on God, who richly provides us with all things to
enjoy. 18 Instruct them to do what is good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, willing
to share, 19 storing up for themselves a good reserve for the age to come, so that they may
take hold of life that is real.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31 read from the International Children's Bible

19 Jesus said, "There was a rich man who always dressed in the finest clothes. He lived in
luxury every day. 20 There was also a very poor man named Lazarus, whose body was
covered with sores. Lazarus was often placed at the rich man's gate. 21 He wanted to eat
only the small pieces of food that fell from the rich man's table. And the dogs would come
and lick his sores! 22 Later, Lazarus died. The angels took Lazarus and placed him in the
arms of Abraham. The rich man died, too, and was buried. 23 But he was sent to where the
dead are and had much pain. The rich man saw Abraham far away with Lazarus in his

arms. 24 He called, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me! Send Lazarus to me so that he can dip his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am suffering in this fire!' 25 But Abraham said, 'My child, remember when you lived? You had all the good things in life, but all the bad things happened to Lazarus. Now Lazarus is comforted here, and you are suffering. 26 Also, there is a big pit between you and us. No one can cross over to help you. And no one can leave there and come here.' 27 The rich man said, 'Then please send Lazarus to my father's house on earth! 28 I have five brothers. Lazarus could warn my brothers so that they will not come to this place of pain.' 29 But Abraham said, 'They have the law of Moses and the writings of the prophets to read; let them learn from them!' 30 The rich man said, 'No, father Abraham! If someone came to them from the dead, they would believe and change their hearts and lives.' 31 But Abraham said to him, 'No! If your brothers won't listen to Moses and the prophets, then they won't listen to someone who comes back from death.'"

The Gospel of the Lord

Closing Prayer: On October 6th we celebrate the lives of William Tyndale, and Miles Coverdale, Translators of the Bible. Read from *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*.

William Tyndale was born about 1495 near the Welsh border. He received bachelors and masters degrees from Oxford and also studied at Cambridge. Ordained about 1521, he spent his early ministry as a domestic chaplain and tutor in Gloucestershire and London.

Tyndale was a man with a single passion—to translate the holy Scriptures into English. Lacking official sanction, he went to Germany in 1524. Strongly opposed to his work, King Henry VIII, Cardinal Wolsey, and others sought to destroy his work and put him to death. He was betrayed by a friend and was strangled and burned at the stake on October 6, 1536, in Brussels.

By the time of Tyndale's death, he had completed his translation of the New Testament and major parts of the Old Testament, particularly the Pentateuch. It is estimated that about eighty percent of Tyndale's work found its way into later translations, notably the Authorized Version of 1611 (King James).

Miles Coverdale was born in Yorkshire around 1488. He studied at Cambridge and was ordained in 1514 and soon thereafter joined the Augustinian Friars. Passionate about scriptural translation, he left the monastery in 1526 and eventually went to the Continent, where the work of translation enjoyed strong support.

He completed the first translation into English of the whole Bible in 1535, which was issued as "The Great Bible" in 1539. Archbishop Cranmer adopted Coverdale's translation of the Psalter for the Book of Common Prayer.

Between times of unrest and relative calm, Coverdale shuttled between England and the Continent. He served as a Lutheran pastor while in exile from 1543-1547. He became Bishop of Exeter in 1551 but was deprived of that office at the accession of Queen Mary, due to his Protestant convictions. He again escaped to the Continent, where he lived until the accession to the throne of Elizabeth I in 1559. He is remembered as an outstanding preacher, an uncommonly gifted linguist and translator, and a leader of the Puritan wing of the Church of England.

Let us pray: Almighty God, you planted in the heart of your servants William Tyndale and Miles Coverdale a consuming passion to bring the Scriptures to people in their native tongue and endowed them with the gift of powerful and graceful expression and with strength to persevere against all obstacles: Reveal to us your saving Word, as we read and study the Scriptures and hear them calling us to repentance and life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**