

Second Sunday after Pentecost, June 22

The Collect and Psalms will be read from The Episcopal Church book of Common prayer. The Old Testament, New Testament and Gospel will be read from the Modern English Version Bible

The Collect: O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; 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: 1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a

And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done and how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. 2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time."

3 When he saw that she was serious, he arose and ran for his life to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. 4 But he went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a juniper tree and asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough! Now, O Lord, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers."

5 As he lay and slept under the juniper tree, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat." 6 He looked, and there was a cake baked on coals and a jar of water at his head. And he ate and drank and then lay down again.

7 The angel of the Lord came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you." 8 He arose and ate and drank and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God.

9 He came to a cave and camped there, and the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, "Why are you here, Elijah?"

10 And he said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, Lord of Hosts, for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, thrown down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword, and I alone am left, and they seek to take my life."

11 He said, "Go and stand on the mountain before the Lord."

And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind split the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind, an earthquake came, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. 12 And after the earthquake, a fire came, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire, a still, small voice. 13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood in the entrance to the cave.

And a voice came to him and said, "Why are you here, Elijah?"

14 And he said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, Lord of Hosts, because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, thrown down Your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I alone am left, and they seek to take my life."

15 The Lord said to him, "Go, return on the road through the Wilderness of Damascus.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

Track 1 Psalm: Psalm 42 and 43

1 As the deer longs for the water-brooks, *
so longs my soul for you, O God.

2 My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; *
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

3 My tears have been my food day and night, *

while all day long they say to me,

“Where now is your God?”

4 I pour out my soul when I think on these things: *

how I went with the multitude and led them into the
house of God,

5 With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, *

among those who keep holy-day.

6 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *

and why are you so disquieted within me?

7 Put your trust in God; *

for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

8 My soul is heavy within me; *

therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan,
and from the peak of Mizar among the heights of Hermon.

9 One deep calls to another in the noise of your cataracts; *

all your rapids and floods have gone over me.

10 The Lord grants his loving-kindness in the daytime; *

in the night season his song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.

11 I will say to the God of my strength,

“Why have you forgotten me? *

and why do I go so heavily while the enemy
oppresses me?”

12 While my bones are being broken, *

my enemies mock me to my face;

13 All day long they mock me *

and say to me, “Where now is your God?”

14 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *

and why are you so disquieted within me?

15 Put your trust in God; *

for I will yet give thanks to him,

who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

Psalm 43

- 1 Give judgment for me, O God,
and defend my cause against an ungodly people; *
deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.
- 2 For you are the God of my strength;
why have you put me from you? *
and why do I go so heavily while the enemy
oppresses me?
- 3 Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, *
and bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling;
- 4 That I may go to the altar of God,
to the God of my joy and gladness; *
and on the harp I will give thanks to you, O God my God.
- 5 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *
and why are you so disquieted within me?
- 6 Put your trust in God; *
for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

Track 2 Old Testament: Isaiah 65:1-9

- I was sought by those who did not ask for Me;
I was found of those who did not seek Me.
I said, "Here I am, here I am,"
to a nation that did not call on My name.
- 2 I have spread out My hands all day
to a rebellious people
who walk in a way that was not good,
after their own thoughts;

3 a people who provoke Me continually
to My face,
presenting sacrifices in gardens
and burning incense on altars of brick;
4 who sit among the graves
and lodge in the monuments;
who eat swine's flesh,
and the broth of abominable things is in their vessels;
5 who say, "Stand by yourself; do not come near to me,
for I am holier than you!"
These are smoke in My nose,
a fire that burns all day.
6 See, it is written before Me:
I will not keep silent, but I will recompense,
even recompense into their bosom,
7 your iniquities and the iniquities of your fathers together,
says the Lord;
because they have burned incense on the mountains
and blasphemed Me on the hills,
therefore, I will measure their former work
into their bosom.
8 Thus says the Lord:
As the new wine is found in the cluster,
and one says, "Do not destroy it
for a blessing is in it,"
so I will do for the sake of My servants
that I may not destroy them all.
9 I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,
and out of Judah an inheritor of My mountains;
and My chosen ones shall inherit it,
and My servants shall dwell there.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

Track 2 Psalm: Psalm 22:18-27

18 Be not far away, O Lord; *

you are my strength; hasten to help me.

19 Save me from the sword, *

my life from the power of the dog.

20 Save me from the lion's mouth, *

my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.

21 I will declare your Name to my brethren; *

in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

22 Praise the Lord, you that fear him; *

stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;

all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;

neither does he hide his face from them; *

but when they cry to him he hears them.

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who
worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *

"May your heart live for ever!"

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to

the Lord, *

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; *

he rules over the nations.

The Epistle: Galatians 3:23-29

23 But before faith came, we were imprisoned under the law, kept for the faith which was later to be revealed. 24 So the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

26 You are all sons of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, and there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

The Gospel: Luke 8:26-39

26 They sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is across from Galilee. 27 When He stepped out on land, a man from the city who had demons for a long time met Him. He wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. 28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have You to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I plead with You, do not torment me." 29 For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. It often had seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles. But he broke the shackles and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.

30 Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

He said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. 31 And they begged Him not to command them to go out into the abyss.

32 There was a large herd of swine feeding on the mountain. They begged Him to permit them to enter them, and He permitted them. 33 Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

34 When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and reported it in the city and in the country. 35 Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind. And they were afraid. 36 Those who had seen it told them how he who had been possessed by demons was healed. 37 Then the whole crowd from

the surrounding country of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So He went into the boat and returned.

38 Now the man from whom the demons had departed asked Him if he could stay with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 “Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you.” So he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

The Gospel of the Lord

On June 28 we celebrate the life of Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons. Read from A Great Cloud of Witnesses.

If theology is “thinking about faith” and arranging those thoughts in some systematic order, then Irenaeus has been rightly recognized by Catholics and Protestants alike as the first great systematic theologian.

There is considerable doubt about the year of Irenaeus’ birth; estimates vary from 97 to 160. It is certain that he learned the Christian faith in Ephesus at the feet of the venerable Polycarp, who in turn had known John the Evangelist. Some years before 177, probably while Irenaeus was still in his teens, he carried the tradition of Christianity to Lyons in southern France.

His name means “the peaceable one”—and suitably so. The year 177 brought hardship to the mission in Gaul. Persecution broke out, and a mounting tide of heresy threatened to engulf the Church. Irenaeus, by now a presbyter, was sent to Rome to mediate the dispute regarding Montanism, which the Bishop of Rome, Eleutherus, seemed to embrace. While Irenaeus was on this mission, the aged Bishop of Lyons, Pothinus, died in prison during a local persecution. When Irenaeus returned to Lyons, he was elected bishop to succeed Pothinus.

Irenaeus’ enduring fame rests mainly on a large treatise, entitled *The Refutation and*

Overthrow of Gnosis, Falsely So-Called, usually shortened to Against Heresies. In it, Irenaeus describes the major Gnostic systems, thoroughly, clearly, and often with biting humor. It is one of our chief sources of knowledge about Gnosticism. He also makes a case for Christianity which has become a classic, resting heavily on Scripture and on the continuity between the teaching of the Apostles and the teaching of bishops, generation after generation, especially in the great see cities. Against the Gnostics, who despised the flesh and exalted the spirit, he stressed two doctrines: that of the creation as good, and that of the resurrection of the body.

A late and uncertain tradition claims that he suffered martyrdom, about 202.

Let us pray: Almighty God, you upheld your servant Irenaeus with strength to maintain the truth against every blast of vain doctrine: Keep us, we pray, steadfast in your true religion, that in constancy and peace we may walk in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**