



Five Crosses

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Introductions to the Readings



The Small Cowper Madonna by Raphael. The Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary is on 15th August.

Sunday 6th August – Transfiguration of Christ

Epistle – 1 John 3.1-3 (p.237)

John expresses the hope in his letter that we shall be transformed to be like Jesus *because we shall see him as he is*. We will share the glory of Christ.

Gospel – Mark 9.2-7 (p.42)

The disciples, Peter, John and James, witness the transfiguration of Jesus. They see Jesus in glory with Elijah and Moses and hear a voice from heaven declaring, *This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him*.

Sunday 13th August – Trinity 9

OT – Genesis 37.1-4, 12-28 (p.34)

Joseph is taken into slavery because of the actions of his brothers who, out of jealousy, try to do away with him.

NT – Romans 10.5-15 (p.156)

Paul gives his classic teaching of *justification by faith through grace*. By believing in Jesus, and declaring that faith, we will be saved, but salvation is God's free gift to us and not gained through our own efforts.

Gospel – Matthew 14.22-33 (p.15)

The disciples acclaim Jesus as the *Son of God*. They have just witnessed him walking on the water in heavy seas. Peter lacks the trust in God to do the same.

Together4God – Matthew 14.22-33 (p.15)

Jesus walks on the water. His disciples know he is the *Son of God*.

Evening, OT – 1 Kings 11.41-12.20 (p.327)

Following the death of Solomon Rehoboam becomes king. His cruelty causes the kingdom to divide and Jeroboam becomes king of Israel and Rehoboam is left with only Judah.

Evening, NT – Acts 14.8-20 (p.130)

Paul heals a man who has not walked from birth. The crowd acclaim Paul and his companions gods. Visiting Jews turn the crowd against them. Paul is stoned but not killed and continues his mission, moving on to Derbe.

Sunday 20th August – Trinity 10

OT – Genesis 45.1-15 (p.43)

Joseph, now the governor of Egypt reveals his identity to his brothers. God has sent Joseph ahead of them to Egypt to save the lives of the people of Israel.

NT – Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32 (p.156)

God has kept faith with his chosen people, says Paul. He has not rejected them but has acted now to save Jew and Gentile alike.

Gospel – Matthew 15.10-28 (p.16)

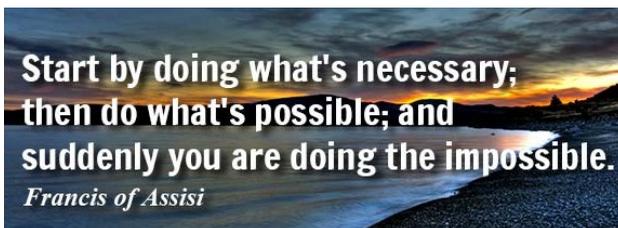
This is a strange passage. Jesus teaches that nothing is unclean except what comes out of the heart. Then he rejects a Canaanite woman, calling her a dog. Only her evident faith changes his attitude.

Evening, OT – 2 Kings 4.1-37 (p.345)

These stories reveal the miraculous abilities of Elisha. Like his mentor Elijah the spirit of God is with him.

Evening, NT – Acts 16.1-15 (p.132)

Paul's ministry took him to many cities, towns and villages. This account demonstrates how his mission was inspired and blessed by the Holy Spirit.



Sunday 20th August – Blessed Virgin Mary

OT – Isaiah 61.10-11 (p.702)

These verses from Isaiah surely inspired the canticle we know as the *Magnificat*. God's justice is revealed in his dealings with the nations.

NT – Galatians 4.4-7 (p.186)

Through the incarnation of his Son, through the obedience of Mary God has made it possible for us to become children of God and heirs with Christ.

Gospel – Luke 1.46-55 (p.54)

Mary sings *Magnificat*. She praises God for his justice and his care for the poor, the hungry and the outcast in society.

Sunday 27th August – Trinity 11

OT – Exodus 1.8-2.10 (p.50)

A new king in Egypt enslaves the Israelites. The new-born boys are to be exposed and abandoned. Moses is saved by Pharaoh's daughter as a result of his mother's love.

NT – Romans 12.1-8 (p.156)

The necessary gifts are given to the Church, says Paul. It is important that every Christian recognise their gifts and uses them for God's work.

Gospel – Matthew 16.13-20 (p.17)

The crowds have been speculating about who Jesus might be, but it is Peter who sees who he truly is, *You are the Christ, the Son of the living God*. Peter is commended by Jesus and given the *keys of the kingdom of Heaven*.

Evening, Epistle – 1 Corinthians 15.1-11 (p.172)

Paul outlines the evidence for the gospel that he proclaims. Jesus was seen by many witnesses – and even by Paul himself on the road to Damascus.

Evening, Gospel – Luke 18.9-14 (p.78)

Jesus commends the tax collector for his humility before God. The Pharisee is condemned for his pride.

A copy of this leaflet is available on the Five Crosses website at fivecrosses.weebly.com/hymns-readings.html and the introductions for each week are published on our Facebook and Google+ pages each Thursday. Visit the website for links, or use the QR codes below.

