



## Written Worship for Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in ordinary time

#### **Collect for the day**

Lord of heaven and earth, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and power of your Church. Sow in our hearts the seeds of your grace that we may bear the fruit of the Spirit, in love and joy and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

#### **StF 663, MP 857 I, the Lord of sea and sky**

#### **Prayer of Praise and Confession**

Eternal and gracious God, we have come before you in the name of Christ, setting aside time and space in our lives to reflect on your greatness, to rejoice in your goodness, and to respond to you with gladness.

Lord of all, we praise you for our universe with its infinite fascination, for our world with all its wonder, for our countryside with all its beauty, for life itself in all its incredible variety.

Living God, we praise you for your love shown to us in Christ, your love that goes seeking us out, caring, guiding, protecting, forgiving, despite our lack of love for you, and our failure to live as Jesus' disciples.

Loving God, we praise you once more for all you have done in Christ, for your victory through him over sin and evil, darkness and death. We praise you for your love which cannot be kept down, whatever it may face, whatever may conspire against it.

#### **Confession**

Loving and gracious God, we are sorry for our wrong doings.

Where we have failed to love our neighbours as you have loved us, forgive us Lord.

Where we have failed to respond to your calling, forgive us Lord.

Where we have failed to be thankful for all that you have done for us, forgive us Lord.

Forgiving Lord, renew our spirits, strengthen our wills, deepen our faith and send us forgiven and restored to live and work for you.

We thank you Lord, because through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Amen.**

**Readings:** 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

Luke 9:51-62

### **Reflection**

I come from a Maasai tribe in Kenya that holds its traditional values very seriously and one of those traditions is inheritance. The first-born son is always expected to have a double portion of whatever is there to be inherited, leaving the rest of the sons to single portions, a tradition that I struggle to comprehend, save to say females get no inheritance at all.

In the Old Testament reading, Elisha requested to have a double portion of Elijah's spirit. According to the Israelite's customs at the time, the first-born son would receive a double portion of the father's inheritance. In this case, Elisha was asking to be Elijah's heir, successor, the one who would continue Elijah's work as the leader of the prophets. However, it wasn't the decision of Elijah whether Elisha would get the double portion, but God's.

God granted Elisha his request as the leader to take up Elijah's responsibilities because his motives were pure. His main goal was not to be better or more powerful than Elijah but to accomplish more for God. Elisha was commissioned as a prophet, and he knew very well it would be costly because he had walked along Elijah witnessing the demands and the cost that came along with the responsibility. Elisha was determined to take up the mantle and continue to respond to God's call.

In the New Testament passage, Jesus was determined to get to Jerusalem to spread the good news knowing very well he might be persecuted. To get to Jerusalem, Jesus and his disciples had to go through Samaria, a region inhabited by the Samaritans. Samaritans were a mixed race between the Jews and the Assyrians, hated by Jews because they were not 'pure Jews' and the Samaritans in turn hated Jews. Tension arose between these two groups of people that

Jewish travellers between Galilee and Southern Judea often would walk around rather than through Samaria territory even though this would lengthen the trip.

Jesus held no such prejudices and therefore sent his disciples to get things ready in a Samaritan village. They were not welcome and in turn, Jesus' disciples were very angry with the Samaritans, hence wanting to retaliate by calling fire down from heaven to destroy the people as Elijah had done on the servants of the wicked king of Israel.

Jesus' reaction was completely the opposite, he chose to ignore his disciple's suggestions and went to another village in Samaria. On the way to the village, they met with different people whom he told to follow him, but they gave excuses. The excuses they gave could have been genuine but true disciples require immediate or instant action.

Following Jesus has a cost and each of us must be ready to serve even when it requires sacrifice. The message for today is inviting us to take up the cross with the crown and be willing to follow Christ.

**Points to ponder.**

- What is Christ saying to each one of us in today's readings?
- Are we ready to follow Christ knowing it might be costly?

**StF 662 Have you heard God's voice, has your heart been stirred?**

**Prayer of intercession.**

Loving God, we pray for the whole church which you called into being through your Son. We are aware that it was always your intention that your church should be a blessing to all people everywhere. We ask that by your Holy Spirit your church may be daily renewed and empowered for the task which you gave it life.

We pray that we and all Christians may be ready for sacrifice, any action, any declaration that will clearly demonstrate faith, hope, and love to our neighbour, our family, and our friends, and to those we meet on the journey of life each day.

We pray for Christians who have trusted you, and for whom obedience has brought sorrow and loss: for those who, as an act of discipleship, have felt led to involvement in feeding the hungry, seeking the lost, healing the broken, or enabling the defeated.

Loving God we pray that as we respond to your calling, give us grace, strength, and wisdom to trust in you.

In the name of Christ. **Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer.**

**StF 673 Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?**

**The Grace**

**Joseph Kwallah**

**Student Presbyter.**