



SUNDAY, JUNE 26–JULY 2

TIME AFTER PENTECOST — LECTIONARY 13

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

A reading from First Kings.

¹⁵Then the LORD said to [Elijah],

“Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus;
when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram.

¹⁶Also 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.”

¹⁹So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat,
who was plowing.

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.

²⁰He 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?”

²¹He 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.

The word of the Lord.

or

Word of God, word of life.

PSALMODY: Psalm 16

FIRST READING Hazael = HAY-zuh-el Aram = AR-um Jehu = JEE-hoo Nimshi = NIM-shee
Shaphat = SHAY-fat Abel-meholah = AY-bul-muh-HOH-luh

This is the story of Elijah the prophet passing the mantle (literally) of his authority to Elisha. Two oddities explained will help the reader tell the story. First, Elijah’s statement, “What have I done to you?” translates, “No problem.” He means to let Elisha know that bidding his father farewell is fine. Second, Elisha’s slaughter of the oxen and the burning of the plow underscore his resolve to leave his old life and follow in the footsteps of the prophet. It is a good story. Enjoy the telling of it.

SECOND READING: Galatians 5:1, 13-25

A reading from Galatians.

¹For freedom Christ has set us free.

Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

¹³For 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.

¹⁴For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

¹⁵If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh.

¹⁷For 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.

¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law.

¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹envy, 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.

²²By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

The word of the Lord. *or* Word of God, word of life.

SECOND READING *licentiousness = ly-SEN-shus-ness*

This is a simple appeal to allow oneself to be guided by the Spirit and to revel in the gifts of the Spirit. Let the reader speak to the people in the pews from the heart. Bring a genuine and earnest concern to your imparting of the lesson. Make it a “Spirited” appeal.

GOSPEL: Luke 9:51-62

The holy gospel according to Luke.

⁵¹When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up,
he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him.

On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him;

⁵³but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem.

⁵⁴When 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?”

⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them.

⁵⁶Then they went on to another village.

⁵⁷As they were going along the road, someone said to him,

“I will follow you wherever you go.”

⁵⁸And 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.”

⁵⁹To another he said, “Follow me.”

But he said, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”

⁶⁰But Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead;
but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”

⁶¹Another said, “I will follow you, Lord;

but let me first say farewell to those at my home.”

⁶²Jesus said to him,

“No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back
is fit for the kingdom of God.”

The gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL

Its several snatches of conversation and unexpected reactions make this short reading challenging. Help the assembly grasp the determination inherent in “setting his face” in the sound of the delivery of the phrase. Help hearers sense the disciples’ surprise in Jesus’ rebuke. Explore the potentially varied sounds of Jesus’ responses to those he meets “going along the road.” Appropriate pauses will allow each of the three encounters enough time to stand on its own.