

the towns and places he himself was to visit. He said to them, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest. Start off now, but remember, I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Carry no purse, no haversack, no sandals. Salute no one on the road. Whatever house you go into, let your first words be, "Peace to this house!" And if a man of peace lives there, your peace will go and rest on him; if not, it will come back to you. Stay in the same house, taking what food and drink they have to offer, for the labourer deserves his wages; do not move from house to house. Whenever you go into a town where they make you welcome, eat what is set before you. Cure those in it who are sick, and say, "The kingdom of God is very near to you." But whenever you enter a town and they do not make you welcome, go out into its streets and say, "We wipe off the very dust of your town that clings to our feet, and leave it with you. Yet be sure of this: the kingdom of God is very near." I tell you, that on that day it will not go as hard with Sodom as with that town.'

The seventy-two came back rejoicing. 'Lord,' they said, 'even the devils submit to us when we use your name.' He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Yes, I have given you power to tread underfoot serpents and scorpions and the whole strength of the enemy; nothing shall ever hurt you. Yet do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you; rejoice rather that your names are written in heaven.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

3 JULY 2022

MARKS OF A CHRISTIAN

As Jesus continues his journey to Jerusalem the time of its visitation and comforting, spoken of by Isaiah, is fast approaching. The dawn of the new age is a time of decision and struggle between Jesus and the forces that would hinder and destroy him. As the battle lines are drawn Jesus is not alone and calls on the seventy-two to share in his ministry. They are instructed on how to undertake their missionary activity. It is a ministry in which possibilities and risks stand side by side. The disciples indeed share in Jesus' ministry and power, but they are called to humility and service. Their sharing in the life which Jesus gives is of greater value than their power over demons.

There is no more striking image to convey radical and final change than that of death. To make sure his wavering Christians of Galatia know how they have been radically changed by becoming Christians, Paul speaks of being crucified to the world and the world to him. By this powerful image, he means that we have broken totally with the past through baptism. It is for this reason that Paul sees the argument in Galatia about the need for Christians to follow the Jewish law, and so become circumcised, to be ultimately a fruitless exercise. For Christians, the only real marks worth bearing are those of Jesus, and from this perspective, even the divine command for Jews to be circumcised (cf. Genesis 17:10-14) has been superseded.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Isa 66:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I will send toward Jerusalem peace like a river.

Rejoice, Jerusalem, be glad for her, all you who love her! Rejoice, rejoice for her, all you who mourned her! That you may be suckled, filled, from her consoling breast, that you may savour with delight her glorious breasts. For thus says the Lord: Now towards her I send flowing peace, like a river, and like a stream in spite the glory of the nations. At her breast will her nurslings be carried and fondled in her lap. Like a son comforted by his mother will I comfort you. And by Jerusalem you will be comforted. At the sight your heart will rejoice, and your bones flourish like the grass. To his servants the Lord will reveal his hand.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 65:1-7, 16, 20. R. v. 1

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth, / O sing to the glory of his name. / O render him glorious praise. / Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! **R.**

2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow; / shall sing to you, sing to your name!' / Come and see the works of God, / tremendous his deeds among men. **R.**

3. He turned the sea into dry land, / they passed through the river dry-shod. / Let our joy then be in him; / he rules for ever by his might. **R.**

4. Come and hear, all who fear God. / I will tell what he did for my soul. / Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer / nor withhold his love from me. **R.**



SECOND READING

Gal 6:14-18

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians

The marks I carry on my body are those of Jesus Christ.

The only thing I can boast about is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. It does not matter if a person is circumcised or not; what matters is for him to become an altogether new creature. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, who form the Israel of God.

I want no more trouble from anybody after this; the marks on my body are those of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, my brothers. Amen.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Col 3:15,16

Alleluia, alleluia! / May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, / and the fullness of his message live within you. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 10:1-12, 17-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Your peace will rest upon him.

The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them out ahead of him, in pairs, to all