

Season of Creation

Year A

Sunday 27 September

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55.1, 10-13

Reader: A Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah

Hear, everyone who thirsts;

come to the waters;

and you who have no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven

and do not return there until they have watered the
earth,

making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;

it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose

and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy

and be led back in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you

shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Nothing is Lost, (Ladder to the Light) by Steven Charleston

In the days of conquest, when darkness covered the land, the hoop of many nations was broken, the story of many people lost—and lost forever. The number who perished will never be counted, but their graves are still here. Their testimony is written into the earth. The wisdom of the ancestors is a mist over the valley, a cloud passing before the moon. The teachings of the elders can be heard in the rain, the message of the poets seen in the first stars that put the sun to bed. Nothing is finally lost. The ancient visions are within us. The old dreams are part of us. The steady rhythm of hope was never silenced. It beats today for all who would hear it. It beats within me. It beats within you. Life is still growing beneath the concrete. The sound of the earth is breathing beneath the glass and steel.

GOSPEL

Luke 10.25-37

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Reader: Shining Light Tells the Good Story.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

A scroll keeper, one who was skilled in his knowledge of tribal law, came to Creator Sets Free to test him and trap him in his words.

“Wisdomkeeper,” he said. “What path must I walk to have the life of the world to come that never fades away, full of beauty and harmony?”

He answered him, “What is written in our tribal law about this? Tell me, how do you see it?”

The scroll keeper spoke from the words of the law, “You must love the Great Spirit from deep within, with the strength of your arms, the thoughts of your mind, and the courage of your heart, and you must love your fellow human beings in the same way you love yourselves.”

“You have answered well,” Creator Sets Free said back to him. “If you walk this path you will live.”

But the scroll keeper, wanting to look good to others, asked him, “Who are my fellow human beings?”

Creator Sets Free answered him with a story.

“There was a man walking the road from Village of Peace to Moon Village. On the way he was attacked by thieves, who beat him, stripped him of his clothes, and left him bleeding to death.

Now it happened that a holy man was on the same road, not far behind. When he saw the man, he went around him on the other side of the road. Not far behind him was another man, also from the tribe holy men are chosen from. When he saw the wounded man, he did the same thing as the holy man.

Then a man from High Place, who was also walking the road, saw the wounded man. Even though he was not a Tribal Member but a mixed blood despised by the tribal people, he felt pity for the man. He helped him by pouring good medicine on his wounds and wrapping them in a cloth. He put the man on his own animal and took him to a lodging house to care for him.

The next day, when the man of High Place was leaving, he gave from his own money pouch to the keeper of the lodging house. ‘Use this to care for him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will give you anything more that is needed.’”

Creator Sets Free then looked at the scroll keeper and said,
“Which one of these three acted as a fellow human being
to the man who was attacked by the thieves?”

The scroll keeper answered, “The one who had pity on
him.”

“Go,” Creator Sets Free said, “and walk in the same way.”

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**