

13<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR C



Ploughing: Rene Auguste Seyssaud

*THE GOSPEL* Luke 9:51-62

*Jesus said, "No one who sets a hand to the plough and looks to what was left behind is fit for the Kingdom of God".*

Jesus, you say to us, "Follow me.  
Go, proclaim the kingdom  
of God."

Deepen our trust. Loosen our attachments,  
so many they may be, and whatever  
fastens us also to our  
safe spots.

Allow us to go where you call us today:  
fields of war and bias, whatever  
destroys our climate,  
wherever there is  
hunger and  
violence.

Let us take  
your kingdom everywhere in our day.  
And let us lay our heads  
where you lay yours.



*THE FIRST READING 1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21*

*He used the plowing equipment for fuel to boil their flesh, and gave it to his people to eat. Then Elisha left and followed Elijah.*

Elisha  
left his fields  
to follow the prophet.

James  
and John  
let go of their nets  
so they could follow Jesus.

Lord

when you call us daily,  
in our normal lives,  
help us leave  
whatever  
we are  
doing

and come and  
follow you.



*THE SECOND READING Galatians 5:1, 13-18*

*The whole law is fulfilled on one statement, namely,  
"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

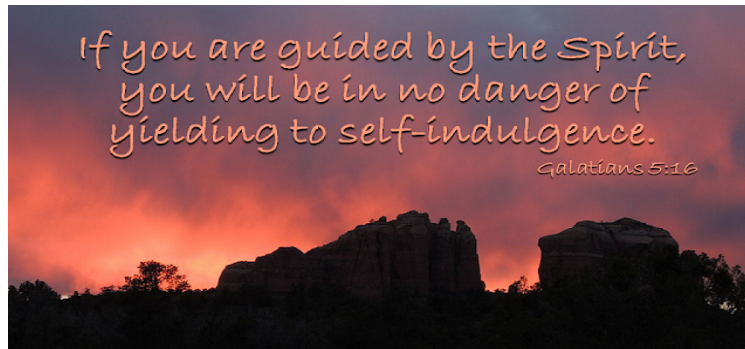
Christ,  
are you saying  
that in giving we receive?

That  
we are set free  
when the walls of our  
enclosed selves are knocked down?

Please say it loudly,  
again and again.

Let us love our neighbor  
as you love  
us.

That is our freedom.  
That is our  
joy.



### Reflection:

This Sunday's readings focus on the commitment needed to respond to the Lord's call, a reminder that true faith comes from the heart.

The **Gospel** tells of the wholehearted commitment required by Jesus of his followers – not coercion, as suggested by James and John. Jesus makes the three who come forward aware of what following him really means: it is not to be imagined as a part-time or 'easy' option. Jesus does not want his disciples to hesitate.

In the **First Reading**, Elisha responds quickly to being 'anointed' by Elijah. He shows his desire to serve the Lord by leaving his livelihood and home, empty-handedly following Elijah.

In the **Second Reading**, St Paul emphasizes the importance of freedom. However, he warns the Galatians, and us too, that this is not an excuse for self-indulgence. The Spirit will guide us so that we love our neighbours as ourselves. Living in freedom encourages us to take total responsibility for our own lives, rather than blame others for any personal difficulties.

If, like the **Psalmist (Psalm 15/16)**, we trust and follow the Lord's path of life, it will lead us to eternal joy. Let's pray this week for the grace of freedom in being able to accept unconditionally God's will for us.

We also continue to pray for peace throughout the whole world, and especially for the people of Ukraine, eastern Europe, and the people of Afghanistan, for the dead, the injured and the missing in Wednesday's earthquake.

