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First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:10-14

Response: “*Seek the Lord, you who are poor, and your hearts will revive*” (Ps.68:33)

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 68:14,17,30,31,33,34,36,37.

Second Reading: Colossians 1:15-20

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

Jesus Christ, the Risen Lord is the incarnate Word of God. It is as close as God can come to us. He is not only in our midst. He can be in our minds, heart and soul. He is close to us and one with us in the deepest spiritual sense.

We are exhorted to “*obey the voice of the Lord your God*” (Deut.30:10). Moses tells his people that God’s commandments “*is not beyond your strength, or beyond your reach*” (Deut.30:10).

God is not a distant voice in the heavens. “*The Word is very near to you for your observance*” (Dt.30:14). If God is so close to each one of us then surely with the same God we are close to one another. The Messiah will spell out the love of God and neighbour.

The psalmist expresses his faith in the tremendous love of God. “*In your great love, answer me, O God, with your help that never fails*” (Ps.68:33).

Everyone is encouraged to seek the Lord, even “*you who are poor*” (Ps.68:). Have confidence in God. “*He will help Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah*” (Ps.68) “*and your hearts will revive*” (Ps.68:33).

The word of God is incarnate in “*Christ Jesus the image of the unseen God*” (Col.1:15). In him is all perfection “*and all things to be reconciled through him and for him*” (Col.1:20).

St. Paul says that “*he was first to be born from the dead*” (Col.1:18). He died like one of us so that we might live like him. He is the beginning and the end of all creation. He is the source of our redemption.

Jesus told a lawyer that he had said the right things when he said that “*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself*” (Lk.10:27).

When asked by the lawyer “*Who is my neighbour*” (Lk.10:29), Jesus told him the parable of the ‘Good Samaritan,’ and said to him to “*Go, and do the same yourself*” (Lk.10:37).

Scripture: Read again and reflect upon the parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk.10:25-37).

Liturgy: Nearness to God and to neighbour is experienced and celebrated in the Eucharist.

Doctrine: The greatest response to love of God is to love God and His children.

Witness: Follow the example of the Good Samaritan, serve a neighbour in need of help.

FOR THE CHILDREN

Share the story in the Gospel, of the Good Samaritan with the children (Lk.10:25-37).

See the nearness of God in the Eucharist, in his Word and in others

Give Teaching on how God reaches out to his people and how we reach out to others.

Witness: Think of ways of keeping close to God and serving him in others.

FOR TEENAGERS (*Shared Christian Praxis*)

Name the Present Action: *Speaking of the nearness of the Word, what does it mean to you? Have you experienced it in your neighbour?*

Your Story and Vision: Share your experiences and expectations of others, of God.

Church's Story and Vision: *Give Church teaching on relationships with God and neighbor.*

Yours and Church's Vision: Name your future faith response with regards to the nearness of God and service to others.

RCIA

Being close to God and the love of him includes love of neighbour. Prejudices and discrimination blocks love and ability to develop relationships with others and with God. In Christ, all people are equally the same (*Col.3:11*). The answer to hatred in any form, is love.

LIFE EXPERIENCE

How many persons can you nominate for the Good Samaritan Award? I suppose we are more like the priest or Levite in the parable who consider themselves to have other priorities than to waste time helping people on their way. How much have I loved God wholeheartedly and had time for others? Many a good Samaritan has come into my life, who Euripides would call "a worthy guardian in our journey and a friend"⁽ⁱ⁾ but how much am I a good Samaritan? Jesus makes it clear that there is no reason for ever refusing to help another.

(i) EURIPIDES. The Bacchae and Other Plays: 'Ion' . Transl.Vellacott P. Penguin Classics. Harmondsworth, U.K. 1972. p. 88.

LITTLE ANGELINA

Angelina's acquaintance with a neighbour can be frustrating, especially if the neighbour is from America. For her neighbour to understand her, she has to say 'bathing suit' when she means a 'swimming costume.' She has to say 'traffic lights' when she means a 'robot.' She has speak of the 'hood' and 'trunk' of a car when she means 'bonnet' and 'boot'. She has to say 'barbeque' when she means a 'braai' and say 'truck' for a 'bakkie.' And on top of that, she has to say 'movie' when she means 'bioscope.' It leaves her wondering when will the Americans learn to speak properly?

IMPORTANT WORD: 'Samaritan'

In New Testament times the Jews looked down on Samaritans whom they considered as half-caste heretics. The Jews saw themselves as pure descendants of Abraham. The Samaritans on the other hand, were a mixed race produced by Israelites from the Northern kingdom who intermarried with other nations after the exile, equivalent to what is termed a Coloured in apartheid days. It must have been a bitter pill to swallow for the Jewish lawyer to admit to Jesus that the Samaritan was the best neighbour.

The parable teaches us a lesson. It shows how a lack of love is easily passed, that 'my story can affect another's story.'⁽ⁱ⁾ It shows that our neighbour is anyone and everyone. And loving someone also means action. It is a challenge. To whom will you be a good Samaritan?

(i) WEAKLAND Rembert, OSB. 'A Pilgrim in a Pilgrim Church.' William. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Cambridge, U.K. 2009. p.19.

Watchword: “**Go, and do the same yourself**” (Lk. 10:37)

Hebrew: לך ועשה-כן גם-אתה

Lekh va'aseh-khen gam-'attah.

Greek: Πορευου και συ ποιει ομοιος

Poreuou kai su poiei homioios.

Latin: **Vade, et tu fac similiter.**

Portuguese: **Vai, e faze da mesma maneira.**

Spanish: **Ve, y haz tu lo mismo.**

French: **Va et fais de même.**

German: **So geh hin und tu desgleichen!**

Afrikaans: **Gaan maak jy ook so.**

Zulu: **Hambe-ke, wenze njalo nawe!**

Xhosa: **Hamba uye kwenjenjalo ke nawe.**

Sotho: **Eya, o etse jwalo le wena!**

Irish: **Imigh leat, agus dean fein mar a gceanna.**