

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

A reading from first Kings.

¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, "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.

PSALM: Psalm 16

*Cantor sings refrain. Assembly repeats refrain. Cantor sings verses.
Assembly sings refrain at R.*



- ¹Protect me, O God, for I take ref-¹uge in you;
I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good a-¹bove
all other."
- ²All my delight is in the godly that are¹ in the land,
upon those who are noble a-¹mong the people.
- ³But those who run after¹ other gods
shall have their troubles¹ multiplied.
- ⁴I will not pour out drink offerings¹ to such gods,
never take their names up-¹on my lips. **R**
- ⁵O LORD, you are my portion¹ and my cup;
it is you who up-¹hold my lot.
- ⁶My boundaries enclose a¹ pleasant land;
indeed, I have a¹ rich inheritance.
- ⁷I will bless the LORD who¹ gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night¹ after night.
- ⁸I have set the LORD al-¹ways before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall¹ not be shaken. **R**
- ⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir-¹it rejoices;
my body also shall¹ rest in hope.
- ¹⁰For you will not abandon me¹ to the grave,
nor let your holy one¹ see the pit.

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¹¹You will show me the ^l path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand
are pleasures for-^l evermore. R

SECOND READING: Galatians 5:1, 13–25

A reading from Galatians.

For 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.

GOSPEL: Luke 9:51–62

⁵¹When the days drew near for him 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."

Daily Bible Readings:

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. Try to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Luke 9:51-62	The cost of following Jesus
Monday	Luke 9:18-27	Following Jesus
Tuesday	Luke 14:25-34	Considering the cost
Wednesday	Luke 5:27-31	Levi follows Christ
Thursday	Matthew 13:1-8	A crop is produced
Friday	Ephesians 5:1-10	The fruit of the light
Saturday	Psalms 92	The fruit of the righteous
Sunday	Luke 10:1-11,16-20	Jesus sends out the Seventy-Two

Scripture Verses for the Week:

But the fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself. – Galatians 5:22-23a (NIRV)

- Cut out & carry with you.
- Say at each mealtime.
- Read at bedtime.
- Commit to memory.

Prayer for this Week:

Lord Jesus, I want to work for you. Please help me to let go of all the things that hold me back. Amen. (Luke 9:62)

For Throughout the Day:

Holy Spirit, produce good fruit in me today. Amen. (Galatians 5:22-23)

A Blessing to Share:

May God's Spirit be at work in you, producing fruits of love. Amen.

Mealtime Refrain:

Christ has set us free:

To serve each other with love. (Galatians 5:13)

Mealtime Prayer:

Thank you, Lord, for the fruit of the earth. Produce in us the fruits of your Spirit, so that our lives are ripe with love. Amen.



Faith Talk:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What is something that you "put off" doing? Why?
- Jesus asked people to follow him, but sometimes they put it off, saying "I need to do this or that first" (Luke 9:59-61). Is it hard for you to follow Jesus sometimes? If so, in what ways?
- If Jesus asked you to move somewhere else to do his will, what would be hardest for you to leave behind?

Devotional Practices:

Make a "tree" shape out of cardboard or color paper and cut out "fruit" shapes marked with the nine fruits of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5. In your home devotion times this week talk about and pray for these fruits in your lives. As you do, place the fruit shapes on your "tree".

Service:

Some followers of Jesus today still give up "home, family, and means of income" to share him with others. Do you know of anyone who has (e.g. missionaries in other countries)? If not, ask your pastor or church friends to suggest someone to you. Find their address and write a note of encouragement and thanks to them.

Rituals and Traditions:

As a fun household activity, work together to make a fruit salad. Buy a selection of different fruits and work together to peel and slice them up. As you enjoy eating the salad, affirm household members for the fruits of the Spirit you see revealed in them e.g. "I saw the fruit of love in you when ..." or "I saw you being patient when ..."

Parent Toolbox: Some ABC's of Parenting Children

Always entrust them to God's care.
Bring them to worship and child/youth ministry activities.
Challenge them to high goals in life.
Delight in their achievements.
Exalt the Lord in their presence.
Frown on evil.
Give them abundant love.
Hear their problems.
Ignore not their childish fears.
Joyfully accept their apologies.
Keep their confidences.
Live a good example before them.
Make them your best friends.
Never ignore their endless questions.
Open your home to their friends.
Pray for them by name daily.

Quicken your interest in their spirituality.
Remember their needs.
Share the Gospel with them.
Teach them to work and be responsible.
Understand they need you, even when they are older.
Value their uniqueness and giftedness.
Wean them from bad company.
eXpect them to obey.
Yearn for God's best for them.
Zealously guide them in Biblical truths.