

5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – (OT-15)
ST PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH BUNDOORA
Sunday 13th July 2025

Fr. Stephen Monsieigneur

Readings: Amos 7:7-17 / Psalm 82 / Colossians 1:1-14 / Luke 10:25-37¹

Theme: *Divine justice and the responsibility of Christians.*

Amos 7:7-17

⁷ This is what he showed me: The Lord was standing by a wall that had been built true to plumb, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸ And the Lord asked me, "What do you see, Amos?" "A plumb line," I replied.

Then the Lord said, "Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will spare them no longer.

⁹ "The high places of Isaac will be destroyed
 and the sanctuaries of Israel will be ruined;
 with my sword I will rise against the house of Jeroboam."

Amos and Amaziah

¹⁰ Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent a message to Jeroboam king of Israel: "Amos is raising a conspiracy against you in the very heart of Israel. The land cannot bear all his words. ¹¹ For this is what Amos is saying:

"Jeroboam will die by the sword,
 and Israel will surely go into exile,
 away from their native land."

¹² Then Amaziah said to Amos, "Get out, you seer! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there and do your prophesying there. ¹³ Don't prophesy anymore at Bethel, because this is the king's sanctuary and the temple of the kingdom."

¹⁴ Amos answered Amaziah, "I was neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but I was a shepherd, and I also took care of sycamore-fig trees. ¹⁵ But the Lord took me from tending the flock and said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.' ¹⁶ Now then, hear the word of the Lord. You say,

"Do not prophesy against Israel,
 and stop preaching against the descendants of Isaac."

¹⁷ "Therefore this is what the Lord says:

"Your wife will become a prostitute in the city,
 and your sons and daughters will fall by the sword.

Your land will be measured and divided up,

and you yourself will die in a pagan country.

And Israel will surely go into exile,

away from their native land."

Psalm 82

A psalm of Asaph.

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- ¹ God presides in the great assembly;
he renders judgment among the “gods”:
- ² “How long will you defend the unjust
and show partiality to the wicked?
- ³ Defend the weak and the fatherless;
uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.
- ⁴ Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.
- ⁵ “The ‘gods’ know nothing, they understand nothing.
They walk about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
- ⁶ “I said, ‘You are “gods”;
you are all sons of the Most High.’
- ⁷ But you will die like mere mortals;
you will fall like every other ruler.”
- ⁸ Rise up, O God, judge the earth,
for all the nations are your inheritance.

Colossians 1:1-14

- 1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
² To God’s holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ:
Grace and peace to you from God our Father.
- ³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God’s people— ⁵ the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world— just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace. ⁷ You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸ and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.
- ⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰ so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹² and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Luke 10:25-37

- ²⁵ On one occasion, an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”
- ²⁷ [The expert] answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’”

²⁸ “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

²⁹ But [the expert] wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbour?”

³⁰ In reply, Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day [the Samaritan] took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

³⁶ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

SERMON

What is the nature of God's judgment and justice?

- 1. How should we live our lives as followers of Christ?***
- 2. Who is our neighbour, and how should we treat them?***

Have you ever been in a situation where, discovering another person, a stranger, was in need, you found yourself asking, ‘Should I get involved or just move on?’ Being followers of Jesus, Christians, loving the other as Jesus loved us, comes with responsibility. Today’s readings provide us with profound insights into the nature of God's judgment, the importance of living a life of faith, and the call to show mercy and compassion to our neighbours.

When asked by the Lord what he sees, Amos replies, “A plumb line.”² This imagery of the plumb line is powerful, representing God's standard of righteousness and justice. Just as a builder uses a plumb line to ensure that a wall is straight, God uses His divine standard to measure the faithfulness of His people. When we fall short of this standard, we face the consequences of our actions, and we face judgment.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to uphold God's standard of justice in our lives. This means that we must examine our actions and attitudes to ensure that they align with God's will. We must ask, Are we living lives of integrity and righteousness? Are we standing up for justice and defending the oppressed?

Psalms 82 further emphasizes the importance of justice, as God judges unjust rulers who defend the wicked and neglect the needs of the weak, oppressed, and needy. The psalmist calls on these rulers to protect those who are vulnerable and to uphold justice. This message is particularly relevant in our world today, where we see so much injustice

² Amos 7:8

and suffering. As Christians, we have a responsibility to advocate for those who cannot advocate for themselves. We must use our voices our resources and our actions to bring about justice and to support those who are marginalized.

The Apostle Paul's prayer for the Colossians³ provides a wonderful example of how we should live our lives as followers of Christ. Paul thanks God for the faith and love of the Colossians and prays for their spiritual wisdom and strength. He reminds them of their redemption and inheritance in God's kingdom, and so highlights the importance of faith, love, and spiritual growth in our lives.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to grow in our faith and to live lives that reflect the love of Christ. This means that we must be intentional about our spiritual growth. Are we spending time in prayer and studying God's Word? Are we seeking to grow in our understanding of God's will for our lives? Are we living out our faith in practical ways, showing love and compassion to those around us? Paul's prayer for the Colossians challenges us to be diligent in our spiritual growth and to live lives that honor God.

The parable of the Good Samaritan⁴ teaches us about the importance of showing mercy and compassion to our neighbours. In this parable, Jesus tells the story of a man who is robbed and left for dead on the side of the road. A priest and a Levite pass by without helping him, but a Samaritan stops to help the man, bandaging his wounds and taking him to an inn to recover. Jesus uses this parable to illustrate what it means to love our neighbour.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to show mercy and compassion to those in need, and we must be willing to go out of our way to help others, even when it is inconvenient or difficult. Are we willing to stop and help those who are hurting? Are we showing kindness and compassion to those who are marginalized and oppressed? Or are we judging them as not worth our support? The parable of the Good Samaritan challenges us to love our neighbours in practical ways, demonstrating the love of Christ through our actions. Prayer is important but so is shelter, food, clothing, and self-worth.

But who is our neighbour? Our neighbour is not just the person who lives next door or someone who shares our cultural or social background. Our neighbour is anyone who is in need, regardless of their race, religion, or status. The Samaritan in the parable helps a man who is different from him, someone who would typically be considered an enemy. Yet, unlike the priest and the Levite, who likely shared much more in common with the robbed man and so had more reason to stop, the Samaritan shows compassion and mercy, demonstrating that our neighbour is anyone we encounter who needs our help.

Put simply, as Christians, we bear a responsibility to reflect Jesus. We must be vigilant in our efforts to live according to God's standard. We cannot ignore Jesus' call for justice, rather, we must uphold God's standard of justice, advocate for those who are vulnerable, grow in our faith, and show mercy and compassion to our neighbours. As we go forth from

³ Colossians 1:1-14

⁴ Luke 10:25-37

this place, let us commit ourselves anew to living lives that honor God and reflect the love of Christ. May we recommit to being faithful in our efforts to uphold justice, to grow in our faith, and to show mercy and compassion to those around us.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father,
We thank You for Your Word
and for the teachings that guide us in our walk with You.
Help us to uphold Your standard of justice,
to advocate for those who are vulnerable,
to grow in our faith, and
to show mercy and compassion to our neighbours.
May our lives reflect the love of Christ and bring glory to Your name.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.