

## **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost Sunday, August 13, 2017**

**The Collect:** Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **Old Testament: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 read from the New Revised Standard Version Bible**

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. This is the story of the family of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the

pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.” But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, “Let us not take his life.” Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him”—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

### **The Word of the Lord**

#### **Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer**

1 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; \* make known his deeds among the peoples.

2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, \* and speak of all his marvelous works.

3 Glory in his holy Name; \* let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

4 Search for the Lord and his strength; \* continually seek his face.

5 Remember the marvels he has done, \* his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, \* O children of Jacob his chosen.

16 Then he called for a famine in the land \* and destroyed the supply of bread.

17 He sent a man before them, \* Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

18 They bruised his feet in fetters; \* his neck they put in an iron collar.

19 Until his prediction came to pass, \* the word of the Lord tested him.

20 The king sent and released him; \* the ruler of the peoples set him free.

21 He set him as a master over his household, as a ruler over all his possessions,

22 To instruct his princes according to his will and to teach his elders wisdom.

45 Hallelujah!

**Epistle: Romans 10:5-15 read from the New Revised Standard Version Bible Anglicised**

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that 'the person who does these things will live by them.' But the righteousness that comes from faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?"' (that is, to bring Christ down) 'or "Who will descend into the abyss?"' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'

**The Word of the Lord**

**Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33 read from the Revised Standard Version Bible**

Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out for fear. But immediately he spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear."

And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

### **The Gospel of the Lord**

#### **Closing Prayer: On August 18th we celebrate the life of Artemisia Bowden, educator**

Artemisia Bowden was a remarkable lay woman who took her Christian faith and Episcopal education directly into the world in order to transform it for the better. Bowden was born in Georgia to Milas and Mary Bowden and attended St. Athanasius' parish school in Brunswick. She went on to study at St. Augustine's Normal, Industrial, and Collegiate School in Raleigh, North Carolina and was graduated in 1900. She immediately began a career in teaching at a North Carolina parish school in Fayetteville.

Bowden's great achievement began in 1902 when she was called to Texas by Bishop James Johnson in order to revive St. Philip's Mission in San Antonio. Artemisia's task was to take control and upgrade the normal and industrial school that had been associated with the mission, which had begun as an African Methodist Episcopal congregation. Her experience at St. Athanasius and St. Augustine's, both Episcopal institutions, offered her reliable models for taking on the task with little or nothing to start except Bishop Johnson's goodwill and encouragement and later the support of the Women's Auxiliary of the Diocese of West Texas. St. Philip's served mostly poor black girls and under Bowden's leadership it became a boarding school and by 1926 junior college status.

Bowden used her personal connections within the Church and the community to extend the reputation of St. Philip's College, and for many years she was able to carry out the essential educational tasks with small local grants and some aid from the Episcopal Church's American Church Institute. The Great Depression hit hard, however, and in the face of reduced Church funding, she increasingly turned to her civic connections in the Black community and city

government to keep St. Philip's afloat. In 1942 she reached a successful outcome in a long campaign to have the school incorporated into the San Antonio Independent School District as a city supported and publicly owned educational institution for black youth. Ms. Bowden continued to direct the College as its dean until she retired in 1954. In addition to graduate work at Columbia University and The New York School of Social Work, Bowden received honorary degrees from Wiley and Tillotson Colleges.

Artemisia served as president of the San Antonio Metropolitan Council of Negro Women and was founder and president of the city's Negro Business and Professional Women's Club. In 1947 she was named to the Texas Commission on Interracial Relations. She is credited for being primarily responsible for the introduction of a black nursing unit in Robert B. Green Hospital, for securing Lindbergh Park for black residents, and for establishing the East End Settlement House. She is remembered in the community today in the naming of Bowden Elementary School in San Antonio and Bowden Administration Building at St. Philip's College, which now serves a diverse community of students.

Artemisia Bowden died on August 18th, 1969 and was buried from St. Philip's Episcopal Church in San Antonio where she generated an enormous pool of spiritual energy that sustained her ministry throughout 52 years as an educator.

**Let us pray:** O God, by your Holy Spirit, you give gifts to your people so that they might faithfully serve your Church and the world: We give you praise for the gifts of perseverance, teaching and wisdom made manifest in your servant, Artemisia Bowden, whom you called far from home for the sake of educating the daughters and granddaughters of former slaves in Texas. We thank you for blessing and prospering her life's work, and pray that, following her example, we may be ever mindful of the call to serve where you send us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**