

TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER

Gathering

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Your faithful servants bless you.
They make known the glory of your kingdom. Alleluia.

Hymn Christ be our light/Send the Fire

Word

Ruth 1.6-18

^{1.6} Then [Naomi] started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. ⁷ So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. ⁸ But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back each of you to your mother’s house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹ The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.” Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. ¹⁰ They said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” ¹¹ But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹² Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, ¹³ would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.” ¹⁴ Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵ So she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.”

¹⁶ But Ruth said, “Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die, I will die — there

will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!”

¹⁸ When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Table Discussion

Just as yesterday’s reading highlighted the openness of the Jewish converts to the Gentile believers, so today’s reading depicts a Gentile (Ruth) pledging herself to Naomi’s Jewish heritage. When the famine is over in Israel, and it becomes possible for Naomi to return to her homeland, she is willing to re-establish the divide between her people and Ruth’s people, because she feels unable to meet Ruth’s needs. But by now, a strong relationship exists between them. Ruth resists, and says, “Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God.”

In your table group:

1. Ours is a diverse church, encompassing many expressions of faithfulness. How might we retain our unity as one people under one God whilst honouring our differences and autonomy?

Hymn Love’s Divine all Love’s excelling

Litany

God, our Maker and Redeemer, fill the earth with justice and compassion.

God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.

Establish righteousness in the nations.

God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.

Bind up the broken-hearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen.

God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.

Shine the light of Christ on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death.

God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.

Empower us, with all the saints in light, to be your witnesses in the world.
God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.¹

The Lord's Prayer

Awaiting his coming in glory
and gathering our prayers and praises
into the many languages God has given us,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

or

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

¹ *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (2005), 377 alt.

Sending

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.