



Safety

Saturday 7th December 2024



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Scripture: Matthew 9:35-10:1, 10:5-8

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest."

Then Jesus* summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near."^{*} ⁸Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

To reflect

Safety – what does this word make you think about? It's taken from last Sunday's reading from the prophet Jeremiah 33.14-16: *The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."*

Today's Daily Eucharist Gospel is Jesus sending out the disciples, sending them from a place of safety to further the kingdom of God, to proclaim good news, and to heal. When I think about the word safety and remembering 'earnestly' earlier this week, where we thought about prayer my mind thinks of Compline. Compline is the order of night prayer, often prayed in darkness and a time at the end of the day to reflect.

One of the ancient hymns of the church used at compline is below, how does this speak to ways you feel safe in and with God?

**Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That you, with steadfast love,
would keep Your watch around us while we sleep.**

**From evil dreams defend our sight,
From fears and terrors of the night;
Tread underfoot our deadly foe
That we no sinful thought may know.**

**O Father, that we ask be done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;
And Holy Spirit, by whose breath
Our souls are raised to life from death.**

From SEC Daily Prayer (Experimental Use) (2024)

To Pray – Conclusion to Compline from the Scottish Prayer Book (1929)

VISIT, we beseech thee, O Lord, this [habitation], and drive far from it all the snares of the enemy. Let thy holy angels dwell herein to preserve us in peace, and may thy blessing be upon us evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

V. We will lay us down in peace and take our rest;

R. For it is thou, Lord, only that makest us dwell in safety.

V. Let us bless the Lord;

R. Thanks be to God.

THE Almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, bless and keep us. *Amen.*

To Listen (these and other suggestions can be found on a Spotify playlist at

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0F5bU2sf4OiOtQY3q78Rf?si=a99cbbf61e7d4587>)

- 'A Mighty Fortress is Our God', words and music by Martin Luther, one version is by the Choir of St John's College, Cambridge. The tune *Ein feste Burg* is used for some carols in this season. What makes you feel safe in the world?
- 'You Never Let Go' by Matt Redman. The lyrics speak of realising God's presence and love can enable living without fear, linking to the word 'safety'.
- 'Before the Ending of the Day' (plainsong), there are several recordings of different translations of this, one is by the Girls Choir of Merton College, Oxford.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.