

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** (or a hymn) All peoples, clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy!

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (Ps 15)

ANTIPHON: You are my inheritance, O Lord.

RESPONSE: **You are my inheritance, O Lord.**

**LECTOR:** Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. I say to the Lord: "You are my God." O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize. **R.**

**LECTOR:** I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart. I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **R.**

**LECTOR:** And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety. For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay. **R.**

**LECTOR:** You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand happiness for ever. **R.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening; you have the words of everlasting life. Alleluia!

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** (or a hymn) Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name.

**Or**

O Father, I pray for them, that they may be one in us, that the world may believe that you have sent me, says the Lord.

**TODAY'S READINGS** 1 Kings 19:16, 19-21; Galatians 5:1, 13-18; Luke 9:51-62

**NEXT WEEK** (14th Sunday, Year C): Is 66:10-14; Ps 65; Gal 6:14-18; Lk 10:1-12, 17-20

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# majellan

## The road to Jerusalem



**26 June 2022 13th Sunday Year C**

One of the more enduring genres of film in recent decades has been the road movie. The plot typically involves two or more companions who embark on a long and arduous road trip, either on foot or by planes, trains and automobiles.

The companions are on a shared quest to find home, seek a new home or, simply, to find themselves in their wanderings. Film historians have noted that the road movie is a post-war phenomenon, capturing the zeitgeist of a world trying to redefine itself in the wake of dislocation, death, and the dismemberment of old national identities. The 'Road to...' films starring Bing Crosby and Bob Hope, which began during the Second World War, featured nomadic characters, trying to make a fast buck in far flung corners of the world, including Australia.

More recent films of this genre focus on a new breed of ex-soldiers, battle-worn veterans of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, who wander the countryside righting wrongs and challenging corruption in high places through force of arms and violence.

The gospels read like scripts for a road movie. Their central protagonist, Jesus, leaves home on a great journey through the occupied territories of Roman Palestine. He gathers a group of companions to join him in battling injustice, sinfulness, and sickness. But, unlike the more recent road movie hero, Jesus does not triumph by force of arms or violence. Rather, he conquers prejudice and

fear by standing up peacefully for justice and charity.

Today's gospel reading (Luke 9:51-62) captures something of this in its vision of Jesus being "resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem" (Lk 9:51), where he will meet his death at the hands of the powerbrokers. This episode marks an important turning point in Luke's story. From now until Jesus enters Jerusalem (Lk 19:28), he travels with his disciples, teaching and preparing them to understand his death and resurrection. Like Jesus, his companions are called to leave their homes and families, take to the road, and pursue a heroic and seemingly ill-fated cause (Lk 9:57-62).

On one level, this story can be understood in literal terms. There are those who are called to a religious or priestly vocation of celibacy and obedience, to a life without a home, spouse or children. This story also speaks to the essential Christian challenge to "repent", submit to a radical change of mind and heart (metanoia), and seek a new path in life no matter what obstacles one might encounter. This is the ironic message that lies at the heart of all great road movies, especially that of Jesus.

One must be willing to push beyond the comfortable and familiar in search of one's true home.