

The task of trying to explain these similarities and differences is what we know as the Synoptic problem. Scholars have suggested the following solution-put simply, Mark wrote his gospel first. Matthew and Luke copied most of it. Matthew and Luke also shared another source (referred to as Quelle- German for source), which has been lost, but probably contained mainly teachings of Jesus. Matthew and Luke also had their own unique sources, referred to as Special Matthew and Special Luke. These often reflect the audiences for which they were writing. Given Matthew is keen to show how Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies, he seems to have been writing for a Jewish Christian audience. Luke, on the other hand, is keen to show how Jesus was concerned for outcasts, so Gentile Christians were probably his target readership.

-Sue Wilson

Entrance antiphon: All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

First Reading: Numbers 11: 25-29

Responsorial Psalm: 18: The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart /R

Second Reading: James 5:1-6

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark: 9: 38-43, 45, 47-48

Memorial Acclamation: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Communion Antiphon: Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.



Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B, 2024

Weekly Reflection: The Synoptic

problem: The first three gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke are known as the Synoptic gospels (from the Greek-meaning seen with the same

eye). This is because they record the life and teachings of Jesus from the same point of view. John's gospel is very different in style and approach. The Synoptic gospels are not only similar in style, at times they are word for word the same! Accounts of John the Baptist fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah- "the voice crying in the wilderness" can be found in Matthew 3:1-6, Mark 1:1-6 and Luke 3:1-6. The story of the rich young man can be found in Matthew 19:16-30, Mark 10:17-31 and Luke 18:18-30. All nearly identical. "Good teacher what must I do to inherit eternal life" "sell all that you have and give to the poor". The healing of the leper- "and he stretched out his hand and touched him...and immediately the leprosy left him" The healing of the paralysed man Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-12 and Luke 5:17-26 "rise up, take up your bed and go home" And so on.

Almost all of Mark's gospel can be found in Matthew and Luke. There are also many accounts which are only found in Matthew and Luke, but not in Mark. John's question to Jesus - "Are you the one to come, or shall we look for another?" The sermon on the mount (Matthew 5-7) and the Sermon on the plain (Luke 6-7) are very similar; "Blessed are the poor..." There are also passages which are only found in Matthew- the story of the wise men, chapter 2, Judas' suicide, Mt 27: 3-10. The guard at Jesus' tomb Mt 27:62-66. And there are passages which are unique to Luke- the birth narratives, including Gabriel's visit to Zechariah, the Annunciation and Mary's visit to Elizabeth; Jesus being found in the Temple as a boy (Lk 1-2) are all only found in Luke. Some of the best known parables - the Good Samaritan, Lk10:1-12, the Pharisee and the tax collector Lk 18:9-14 are only found in Luke. The post resurrection account of the road to Emmaus Lk 24:13-35 is also far more detailed in Luke.