

# Our Sunday Service Together

June 6<sup>th</sup> 2021

Trinity 2



## An Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
one God, who was, and who is, and who is to come, the Almighty.

Alleluia

Hymn God be in my head

## Preparation

All: This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Through the brokenness of Christ, we become one body

as one body we now gather in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to receive God's  
holy word, to pray for the needs of the world,

and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

## Our Confession

*Let us come to the light of Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.*

All: Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to  
you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection.  
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing.  
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven.  
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

*Be still for a moment in confession and in receiving God's Grace in Christ*

All: May Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. **Amen.**

## The opening prayer

All: The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

All: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. Amen.

## The Psalmody Psalm 138

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods will I sing praise to you.

I will bow down towards your holy temple and praise your name, because of your love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

In the day that I called to you, you answered me; you put new strength in my soul.

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord.

Though the Lord be high, he watches over the lowly; as for the proud, he regards them from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you will preserve me;

you will stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand will save me.

The Lord shall make good his purpose for me; your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever; forsake not the work of your hands.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

## Scripture Reading 2 Corinthians 4.13 to 5.1

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—'I believed, and so I spoke'—we also believe, and so we speak, <sup>14</sup> because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. <sup>15</sup> Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

<sup>16</sup> So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, <sup>18</sup> because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

*At the end of the reading we say:*

All: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

## Gloria

All: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## The Gospel Mark 3.20-35

Jesus went to his home; <sup>20</sup> and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. <sup>21</sup> When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.' <sup>22</sup> And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, 'He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.' <sup>23</sup> And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? <sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup> And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. <sup>26</sup> And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. <sup>27</sup> But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

<sup>28</sup> 'Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; <sup>29</sup> but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin'— <sup>30</sup> for they had said, 'He has an unclean spirit.'

<sup>31</sup> Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. <sup>32</sup> A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters<sup>[a]</sup> are outside, asking for you.' <sup>33</sup> And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' <sup>34</sup> And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>35</sup> Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'

*at the end of the reading we say:*

All: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

## A Reflection for the day

So what's the difference between a snap and a photograph? Well, the photographer will tell you a snap is a record of what you see, but a photograph will capture what is there waiting to be seen, if you look in the right way.

We say in the creed, don't we, that we believe in what is seen and unseen. I wonder if this suggests there are things forever invisible to us, hidden from view, secret even. Or might it be they are there if we would look and see.

Jesus sees before him a reality that the leaders of Israel are blind to, God is on the move and the kingdom of this world is failing and falling. It is a bit ironic really, the leaders should have known, they should have seen Jesus was a God's works and purposes. But they do not see, and Jesus family worry for the consequences – they know what the world is able to do to those who oppose its ways and means.

A look back to history would have shown God's anointed king working the purposes of God, bringing the things of God's kingdom to fruition even as the existing king remained on the throne and in power. David was anointed king and began the work of his reign in bringing peace to the land, in uniting the people even as Saul was still in name king, even as he operated in enmity with God and with neighbour.

The new kingdom is set and certain even as the old one continues but increasingly falters and fails. This is God's way, to establish his new kingdom, his new reign as the old continues even though it will fall and fail. Jesus reminds the leaders of this, he reminds them of how the kingdom was split and Israel fell from grace and then he suggests a rejoicing if this was happening within the kingdom of the enemy of God. This is a moment of celebration, a moment to take heart, for what will ultimately fail is falling and what will come is seen to be.

This is Paul's argument in his letter to the Corinthians. The people are clearly struggling with life and faith, with oppression to the way of Jesus they follow. 'Take heart', says Paul, 'things are not easy but they show you that which will ultimately be gone is being replaced by that which will be forever'.

It isn't easy to swim against the tide, to be faithful to the values of God's kingdom, the pressure to knuckle down to the old ways can be immense. 'Take heart', says Paul, even if the earthly tent is lost there is a better house to dwell in for eternity. Doing the right thing, being the people of the kingdom to come is not always easy but those who do 'they are my family' says Jesus. This isn't his rejection of his mother or siblings but rather a welcoming to the family of all who will seek the will and good works of God and his Kingdom – and these are many and varied and from all the ends of the earth from every tribe and tongue.

This is the 'unseen' that Jesus sees and reveals in his actions and words. This is the kingdom coming, it is the same but it is also different.

I find myself asking am I taking snaps or spending the time looking for what is there to be revealed. The words 'new normal' bring anxiety to some as they do not trust the word 'new' and just want their 'normal'. For others the sense that things will always be just 'normal' fills them boredom. The reality is that normal can be new – Jesus' resurrection is the ultimate example, all that was living and breathing, that was touchable and was destined for death is now also 'new', eternal and destined for God.

'See, I am making all things new' says the Lord; as we pray 'your kingdom come and your will be done in earth as in heaven' I wonder if we might take heart, more so it might lift our hearts unto the Lord, into his works, into his kingdom purposes into being made new, into doing the will of God as brothers and sisters of Jesus.

## The Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

## Prayers

*We make our intercessions*

God of light and power, we rejoice in your light, we live in your power, we look for your glory.

Open our eyes to perceive your presence, that we may give ourselves to you...

*Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers.*

We give thanks for the light that is revealed to us in the face of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lord, enlighten your church where vision is dim and the light of the gospel nearly gone out.

*Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers.*

We pray for spiritual renewal, for an increase in vision and hope. We remember all who are prophets and visionaries today.

*Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers.*

*Lord, in your*

Lord, direct all who are seeking to improve the world. We pray for peace-makers, for relief agencies, for all involved in scientific research, for all who hunger for righteousness and justice.

*Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers.*

We give thanks for all who have led us to you, all who shared insight and knowledge, all who kept the lamp of faith burning.

*your mercy hear our prayers.*

*Lord, in*

We pray for all who have entered into weakness, into sadness or into trouble this week, all who have been injured in accidents, the afflicted and perplexed, the persecuted and the forsaken.

*Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers.*

We rejoice that the afflicted will know affection, the perplexed will know purpose, the persecuted will come to your peace, the forsaken will be enfolded in love, in the fullness of your kingdom. We pray for our loved ones departed.

*Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers.*

May the joy of your presence, visions of your glory and the hope of your kingdom close at hand, strengthen us and give us your peace.

*Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

## A Prayer during the Covid-19 Pandemic

All: Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress.

Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,

and lift up all who are brought low;

that we may rejoice in your comfort

knowing that nothing can separate us from your love

in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Collect

All: God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us*

All: 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.

## The Conclusion

All: Christ, as a light illumine and guide me this day.  
Christ, as a shield overshadow me.  
Christ under me, Christ over me; Christ beside me on my left and my right.  
This day be within and without me. Amen