

Our Sunday Service Together

June 13th 2021

Trinity 3



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 Holy, Holy, Holy

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 20

May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble, •
the name of the God of Jacob defend you;
Send you help from his sanctuary •
and strengthen you out of Zion;
Remember all your offerings •
and accept your burnt sacrifice;
Grant you your heart's desire •
and fulfil all your mind.
May we rejoice in your salvation and triumph in the name of our God; •
may the Lord perform all your petitions.
Now I know that the Lord will save his anointed; •
he will answer him from his holy heaven, with the mighty strength of his right hand.
Some put their trust in chariots and some in horses, •
but we will call only on the name of the Lord our God.
They are brought down and fallen, •
but we are risen and stand upright.
O Lord, save the king •
and answer us when we call upon you.
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 5.6-10 and 14-17

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore, all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

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 4.26-34

Jesus said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

Revd. J Webb writes:

I still get a special thrill from planting seeds, watching them grow and produce fruit or flowers. There is something mystical about the apparently dead seed coming to life when the conditions are right. I am reminded of the words of the hymn 'God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform'. This seems to be an almost universal reaction and Jesus uses it many times to illustrate his teaching with references to good and bad seeds, fast or slow growing crops, the action or inactions of farmers and others, and good and bad harvests.

Most of these are fairly obvious, but the two parables in to-days reading are rather different. In the first the farmer plants the seeds and then 'sleeps and rises night and day'. That is, he must be patient – having planted the seed there is nothing to do but continue patiently about his normal routine and wait for the harvest. No amount of fussing about will make any difference – the harvest will come in due course when the time is right. There is no point in digging up the seeds to see how they are growing as we did as children! That is the advice he is giving to his disciples. They see that Jesus having amazing success in planting the seeds of the Kingdom of God. They see the reaction of the crowds gathered round him and they are impatient to see more action when all the world will accept the rule of God. This has been the reaction of people of faith ever since. People of faith look around and see a world in which people are making a mockery of creation, in conflict when they could be in harmony, at war when they could be at peace and injustice is rife. When will the Kingdom of God come?

But Jesus is saying that we need to be like the farmer who 'sleeps and rises every day'. Who faithfully gets

on with his daily tasks in the confidence that God is in control and that the harvest will come when the time is right.

The parable of the mustard seed is also about seeds but makes a rather different point. It is about small beginnings and big results. The mustard seed, although it was thought of as the smallest of all seeds, can grow into a large plant, as big as a tree, in which the birds can perch. Again Jesus relates this to the time when the love of God will be fully established throughout the world. It will come from small beginnings which in time will come to fruition. He is telling us that not many of us will achieve great things, but that if we make what may feel like a small contribution, we can be confident that in time the love of God will prevail and the Kingdom of God will come.

To quote from another hymn.

All we can do is nothing worth unless God blesses the deed;
Vainly we hope for the harvest-tide till God gives life to the seed;
Yet nearer and nearer draws the time, the time that shall surely be,
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.

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*

O God of peace, who has taught us that in quietness and confidence shall be our strength; help us, as we come into your presence, to be still and know that you are God.

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ let us pray to the Father.

We pray for the church that it may continue to work faithfully and patiently for the coming of the Kingdom of God. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We Pray for Our Queen, Prime Minister, and all World leaders, that they may have the Spirit of wisdom. Praying specially for the G7 leaders that they may have a vision of the world where all people may live in peace and harmony. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We pray for our schools and universities as they face further disruption.
Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We pray for our families, friends, and neighbours that we may serve Christ in one another and seek the common good. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We pray for the sick, suffering and dying and we give thanks and pray for those who use their skill and risk their lives to care for them. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We pray for those who mourn the death of loved ones..... may they find peace.
Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Hear us as we remember those who have died..... According to your promises grant them a share in your eternal kingdom. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints, we commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and for evermore. 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 our Saviour, look on this wonderful world in pity and in power; hold fast to your promises of peace won for us by your Son, our saviour Jesus Christ. **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