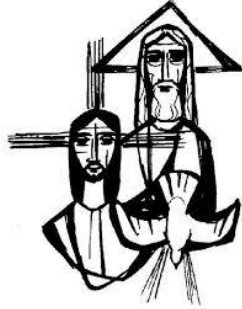


Our Sunday Service Together

June 27th 2021

Trinity 5



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 Eternal Father

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 130

Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice;
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss, O Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you, so that you shall be feared.
I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope.
My soul waits for the Lord, more than the night watch for the morning,
more than the night watch for the morning.
O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy;
With him is plenteous redemption and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.
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 8.7-15

Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

⁸ I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. ⁹ For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. ¹⁰ And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something— ¹¹ now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. ¹² For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. ¹³ I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between ¹⁴ your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. ¹⁵ As it is written,
'The one who had much did not have too much,
and the one who had little did not have too little.'

This is the word of the Lord

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 5.21-43

²¹ When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered round him; and he was by the lake. ²² Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet ²³ and begged him repeatedly, 'My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.' ²⁴ So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ²⁵ Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶ She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷ She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ for she said, 'If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.' ²⁹ Immediately her haemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰ Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' ³¹ And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, "Who touched me?"' ³² He looked all round to see who had done it. ³³ But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.'

³⁵ While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, 'Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?' ³⁶ But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, 'Do not fear, only believe.' ³⁷ He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. ³⁸ When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹ When he had entered, he said to them, 'Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.' ⁴⁰ And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and said to her, 'Talitha cum', which means, 'Little girl, get up!' ⁴² And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. ⁴³ He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

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

The calling of the body of Christ, the Church, is to be his living presence in the world, fulfilling the loving purposes of the Father through the Spirit's wisdom, inspiration and power. We know this – yes?!

It would seem that the religious of Jesus' day, Jews included, had become so organised and structured that God was for most folks beyond reach. The divine, was a remote mystery, a divine nature (holy) so removed from human reality (fallen) that most could not dream of reaching to touch and see their desperate hopes fulfilled, and be healed. Systems had been constructed which, by this time, rather than enable a relationship, a

coming together of God and creation, saw a divide beyond hope. Law, religious sacrifices, taxation, a hierarchical order; all worked to ensure God was worshipped and revered from afar whilst hearts, minds and lives were broken and exhausted, reaching out for just a simple fingertip touch. And then...

Then God came to us, was born as one with us – Emmanuel!

A woman had been haemorrhaging for 12 years and was, because of this excluded from society. It makes you wonder what things exclude people from society today. She has spent everything, but her faith remains, some hope is still to be found. Through the crowd, past the hustle and bustle, the bodyguard of disciples she reaches to touch; even just the hem, the fringe, the very edge of God's presence.

"Daughter" - Jesus says this in all three Gospel accounts for to God she is not an outcast but his creation. "Daughter, your faith has made you well". Faith, not to conjure up God's works or somehow persuade the divine to act. No, this is simply faith that God is God, and if she could get past all the obstacles then God knows her heart and condition and she knows he will do what is right for her; what he knows is right for her. Others might say she was unclean but she knew, her faith told her so, that God would see his daughter and have compassion.

Jairus too reaches out for compassion. In this instance it isn't other people or religious regulations that cause a separation but the ultimate enemy – death. But Jesus' words seek to give hope and some clarity about death. For dead she was indeed, just like Lazarus and Jesus himself would be after the crucifixion. But this is not death! In talking of sleep, or slumber Jesus points to a deep theological conviction that there is life after being dead; but this is not death it is life, it is a holding in the hand of God until the day of judgment; and then comes death or life after life after being dead – resurrection.

The science of all of this, the healing of haemorrhaging, the resurrection of the dead, we know nothing of; but that is OK for this is about faith, it is about restoring relationships between God and human beings, for this the purpose Jesus came for.

This is calling of the church, the body of Christ, to be like Jesus, restoring to life, absolving sins, opening gates that are closed, filling in the gulf built by law and by religious blindness. This is Jesus' story and it ours too; its why Jesus gave the keys of the kingdom to his Church – to set the captives free and proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, Jubilee.

To restore to life and to absolve the sins of separation; two very powerful actions. I wonder how we might be that church today.

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, you created us for love and for eternity, and you gave your Son that we should not perish but have everlasting life; as you give us life and love, as you give us yourself, help us to give our lives, our love and ourselves to you.

Let us pray!

Lord of life, may your church proclaim your saving power. Strengthen all who seek to extend our lives and visions of you. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Lord, forgive us where we are divided, and make us one body: we pray for all who work for unity and for peace. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Lord of peace, be with those suffering from war, all divided peoples, all separated from loved ones, families and friends. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray for refugees and displaced persons, for those living in slum conditions or on the streets, for all living in places that are not fit for human flourishing. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Lord, as you have given to us in abundance, may we seek to share with any in need. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

In our community help us to overcome divisions, root out all that would poison or spoil our well-being. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray for families that are divided, for all suffering from factions and broken relationships; for Jerusalem, for Northern Ireland. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Lord of love, we pray for all who are seen as untouchable, for people who are rejected and feared by others. Be a presence of support to those suffering from leprosy, AIDS, the mentally disturbed and the severely handicapped. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Comfort all who lack opportunity or ambition. Those who have no affection, who live in isolation, the broken hearted and broken spirited. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Give strength to those who watch by the beds of the sick and the dying. Comfort those who have lost loved ones this week. We pray in faith for our loved ones departed, may we arise with them to life eternal at the resurrection of the Lord.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers through our saviour Jesus Christ, 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: Almighty God, send down upon your church the riches of your spirit, and kindle in all who minister the gospel your countless gifts of grace; through 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