

Our Sunday Service Together

July 11th 2021

Trinity 7



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

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 24

The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it, □
the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.

For he has founded it upon the seas □
and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.

'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord, □
or who can rise up in his holy place?'

'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, □
who have not lifted up their soul to an idol, nor sworn an oath to a lie;

'They shall receive a blessing from the Lord, □
a just reward from the God of their salvation.'

Such is the company of those who seek him, □
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; □
and the King of glory shall come in.

'Who is the King of glory?' □

'The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord who is mighty in battle.'

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; □
and the King of glory shall come in.

'Who is this King of glory?' □

'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.'

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 Amos 7.7-15

This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb-line, with a plumb-line in his hand. ⁸ And the Lord said to me, 'Amos, what do you see?' And I said, 'A plumb-line.' Then the Lord said, 'See, I am setting a plumb-line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by; ⁹ the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.'

¹⁰ Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, 'Amos has conspired against you in the very centre of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹ For thus Amos has said, "Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land."

¹² And Amaziah said to Amos, 'O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³ but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.'

¹⁴ Then Amos answered Amaziah, 'I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a

dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵ and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."

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 .14-29

¹⁴ King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, 'John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.' ¹⁵ But others said, 'It is Elijah.' And others said, 'It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.' ¹⁶ But when Herod heard of it, he said, 'John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.'

¹⁷ For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸ For John had been telling Herod, 'It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.' ¹⁹ And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰ for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹ But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²² When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, 'Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.' ²³ And he solemnly swore to her, 'Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.' ²⁴ She went out and said to her mother, 'What should I ask for?' She replied, 'The head of John the baptizer.' ²⁵ Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, 'I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.' ²⁶ The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷ Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸ brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹ When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

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

Reflection from John Webb

When I first started to take faith seriously, I knew that the bible was important, but felt daunted and discouraged by the sheer volume and variety of writings it contained. As I was struggling with this I was offered what I now regard as one of the best pieces of advice I have ever been given. It was 'select one book from the Old Testament and one book from the New Testament to study and enjoy and leave the rest till later'.

At the time I was studying to become an accountant so it is perhaps significant that I selected two of the shortest books in the bible – Amos from the Old Testament and Mark from the New and they have been two of my closest friends and companions on my faith journey ever since. So this Sunday with the Old Testament reading from Amos and the New from Mark feels a bit like a reunion.

Amos was a simple god-fearing countryman who was horrified and shocked by the corruption and wickedness he found when he went into town to sell his produce and felt that God was calling on him to speak out against it and call for reform. He was the first of the great Old Testament prophets and a powerful preacher who called for righteousness without fear and was persecuted for doing so.

Our New Testament reading tells us about the death of John the Baptist who like Amos felt compelled to speak out against corruption, immorality and wickedness in high places and lost his life a result. His death itself is a dramatic example of the corruption and arrogance he denounced. But notice Mark's reaction – he doesn't rant and rave about the injustice of it but he is pragmatic and accepts that it is the way of the world.

And that is how he treats the other outrageously unjust death in his account of the death of Jesus. He gives us a remarkably brief and objective account. He doesn't dwell on the corruption and scheming of the Sanhedrin or Pilate. He only hints at the vindictive cruelty and suffering of crucifixion. He accepts that we live in a world where there are powerful forces of evil and wickedness and facing up to them can be costly. But what he does do in both cases is to stress the outcome. The death of John the Baptist was not in vain and it is remarkable that all these years later we are still inspired by the example of his courage in speaking out against corruption and calling for righteousness.

Thankfully, in this country, we now have the right of free speech and the spirit of the prophetic tradition is continued by our press, media and in parliament. The powerful can be criticised and held to account and encouraged to change their ways without fear of the consequences. Sadly, this freedom is not worldwide and we often hear of brave people speaking out in the tradition of Amos and John the Baptist against corruption in high places knowing that they will suffer and may even die. They are in a great tradition and deserve our praise and any help and support they can be given. They can be inspired by knowing that the death of Jesus for speaking the truth is even more powerful because the resurrection at Easter shows that his death was not the end, but a powerful new beginning.

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. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We pray for all public speakers that they may have the courage to speak the truth to those in power without fear or favour. We pray for those who are persecuted for their views that they may have support and encouragement. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We pray for our schools and universities that they may enjoy free speech and vigorous debate. *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
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.

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: Creator God you made us all in your image: may we discern you in all that we see, and serve you in all that we do; 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