

Our Sunday Service Together

July 18th 2021

Trinity 8



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 89.20-37

'I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him.

'My hand shall hold him fast and my arm shall strengthen him.

'No enemy shall deceive him, nor any wicked person afflict him.

'I will strike down his foes before his face and beat down those that hate him.

'My truth also and my steadfast love shall be with him, and in my name shall his head be exalted.

'I will set his dominion upon the sea and his right hand upon the rivers.

'He shall call to me, "You are my Father, my God, and the rock of my salvation;"

'And I will make him my firstborn, the most high above the kings of the earth.

'The love I have pledged to him will I keep for ever, and my covenant will stand fast with him.

'His seed also will I make to endure for ever and his throne as the days of heaven.

'But if his children forsake my law and cease to walk in my judgements, 'If they break my statutes and do not keep my commandments, 'I will punish their offences with a rod and their sin with scourges.

'But I will not take from him my steadfast love nor suffer my truth to fail.

'My covenant will I not break nor alter what has gone out of my lips.

'Once for all have I sworn by my holiness that I will not prove false to David.

'His seed shall endure for ever and his throne as the sun before me;

'It shall stand fast for ever as the moon, the enduring witness in the heavens.'

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 Ephesians 2.11-22

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called 'the uncircumcision' by those who are called 'the circumcision'—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—¹² remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵ He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷ So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸ for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰ built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²² in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

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 6.30-34 and 53-56

³⁰The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³²And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

⁵³When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. ⁵⁴When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, ⁵⁵and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the market-places, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

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

In today's Psalm God talks of his building plans. He has found David, anointed him for the work of leading the people; a leadership for all times – God will see that a throne is set up and a dynasty founded. These are God's plans, but looking at the history of the people you get an idea things worked out slightly differently; or did they?

Commands were given, laws derived. At first these were communicated orally before finally being written down. However, the words used to write them down soon became the 'old' language, similar but different from the everyday language of the people. And, looking to the history of the people you wonder if this is where some of the troubles began.

'It is written', 'well, yes it does say that, but what was intended when this was written, what is the heart of the matter behind it?' – these have always been the questions to ask of the things written down; always he conversation to be had.

Paul talks of buildings, of commands and laws and he can't help but see they have caused division where God only intended a gathering, a drawing together. Did God call the people of Israel to be holy? Yes, but was it so they could be exclusive? Or did God call them to be Holy, as he is holy? Holy, in being set apart, different in the world by being love, grace, justice, rather than hatred, division and distrust!

I wonder if the people of God are called to be like God – always! To be Holy is to be different from the world; it is to be about love, grace, and justice. To be about gathering all, removing the boundaries that separate, about working for the redemption of all things – not exclusively for the few.

Paul expounds on this to the people at Ephesus who seem intent on separateness, who look to laws and commands that would divide and exclude. Paul always argues God's word has come to us, not in a written or spoken form, but as a living and breathing word. Christ comes, and through his life speaks to the world of God's love, grace and justice for it. He draws all to him, he welcomes all the people flock who flock to him. He restores and he heals them, and he does so at Genesserat.

This name means little or nothing to us today I suspect, but to those there at the time this said much about God. To those who heard the gospel first it means so much; for Genesserat was known as the 'Eden plain of Israel'. It was the land of milk and honey, it was the 'promised land', with an abundance and variation of provision – it was Eden to the people. And here Jesus speaks, he talks of God's redemption, of how he has come as Messiah, as the Christ and those things that separate are finished with, over and done with.

Paul asks that the church recognises its calling, not as those of law and commandment, not of a fixed palace or a temple with courts for elitism and division; for gentile or Jew or male or female – but as a people, a dynasty for all generations built upon those who model themselves on the foundation stone for the glory of God – on Christ.

I wonder what he would write to the 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*

God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ returned from the dead to become the Great Shepherd of your sheep, guide us into ways of peace and mercy, equip us for all that is good and build us into one holy dwelling-place for you our God.

Holy Father, empower all whom you have called to be bishops. In this time, we pray for the Vacancy in See group as Bath and Wells seeks your calling of a new Diocesan Bishop. We too for +Ruth, equip and enable her to shepherd your sheep. *Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers.*

We pray for seeking out the straying and the lost, for all offering new hope and courage to the despairing. *Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers.*

Give guidance to all who seek to guide or reconcile others; protect all working with divided people, all peace-keeping forces and those who maintain order. Direct all who work as Samaritans, in marriage guidance, in work placed conflict resolution, the police and social workers. *Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers.*

Surround with love those having difficulties in relationships. We pray for all feeling betrayed or neglected, for all suffering from relationship breakdown, for children from homes where there is hatred and violence. *Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers.*

Good Shepherd, be with all who are harassed and helpless, all who feel alienated or hostile, those like sheep without a shepherd. We remember all who have lost their way, all fallen into wickedness and vice; may they know your love and care. *Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers.*

We rejoice with all who are in the safety of your keeping in your kingdom, for all the saints in glory. *Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, 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: 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