

# Our Sunday Service Together

July 25<sup>th</sup> 2021

Trinity 9



## 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 14

The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'

Corrupt are they, and abominable in their wickedness; there is no one that does good.

The Lord has looked down from heaven upon the children of earth, to see if there is anyone who is wise and seeks after God.

But everyone has turned back; all alike have become corrupt: there is none that does good; no, not one.

Have they no knowledge, those evildoers, who eat up my people as if they ate bread and do not call upon the Lord?

There shall they be in great fear; for God is in the company of the righteous.

Though they would confound the counsel of the poor, yet the Lord shall be their refuge.

O that Israel's salvation would come out of Zion!

When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people, then will Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.

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 3.4-21

<sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. <sup>13</sup>I pray therefore that you may not lose heart over my sufferings for you; they are your glory.

<sup>14</sup>For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup>from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. <sup>16</sup>I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, <sup>17</sup>and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. <sup>18</sup>I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup>and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup>Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, <sup>21</sup>to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

*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 John 6.1-21

**6** After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. **2** A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. **3** Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. **4** Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. **5** When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?' **6** He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. **7** Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' **8** One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, **9** 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' **10** Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. **11** Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. **12** When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' **13** So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. **14** When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.'

**15** When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

**16** When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, **17** got into a boat, and started across the lake to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. **18** The lake became rough because a strong wind was blowing. **19** When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the lake and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. **20** But he said to them, 'It is I; do not be afraid.' **21** Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land towards which they were going.

*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

You may have experienced this yourself, most clergy have. At the village fete when it pours with rain or at the sport's match when your team loses, some bright spark will say "fat lot of good your boss has done", or "so much for your prayers". Maybe we should reply "we are in marketing and sales, not production"; but I am sure we don't, instead simply uttering a nervous laugh as we say, "I know!"

What is prayer all about, is it about success, or might it be much simpler than that, much more powerful, more natural, deeper than that?

We might find it helpful to have prayer, especially the Lord's prayer in mind as we look to today's readings. Paul prays to the Father "from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name", the source of all life. He prays that he will give to us all things in Christ, because to him belong the power and the glory for ever,

amen – in other words because this is God's nature.

The missing centre section of the prayer comes to us in John's gospel. "Give us this day"; problem is the crowd wanted a king and a kingdom, they wanted the restoration of Israel, for someone to give them freedom, power, and glory! Jesus feeds them, they receive the 'daily bread', the sign of the Passover food is before them; sadly, he is not the sign they wanted, Israel restored to God's glory rather than its own is not what they wanted.

In the evening the end of the prayer is enacted; evil is about with wind and wave threatening to engulf them. Jesus comes to them in the storm and they are delivered from the evil about them. If the kingdom of God is advancing into a hostile world, we should be expected to be tested and need to pray for deliverance.

Paul doesn't pray for bread, forgiveness or for safety but for strength. He prays for the presence of Christ with him in the storm, in the darkness that hovers over the valley he journeys through; the valley we all journey through at times. And he falls to his knees in this plea, he prays.

Jesus too withdraws to a quiet place in prayer, to rest - probably, to recharge his resources for life – most likely, to attune himself to the Father's will for the earth – absolutely. The name Adam in the Hebrew applies both to a personal name and also to 'those who are from the earth – humanity'. When we pray "your will be done" we can mean both on earth and in those from the earth, humanity, all of us.

Jesus' actions show us that prayer isn't about success or getting glory for ourselves. It is about attuning our hearts and minds to God in Christ who, and seeking his works in the world and the lives of those we pray his grace and will would come for.

Today across the world there will be tragedy, and joy, triumph and pain, birth and death; things we should engage in prayer about. Prayer does change the world for certain, but above all we are changed by it, as we spend time with God, as we withdraw, in quiet, as we make petition, as we listen and as we 'live in Him and He in us' walking through the valley of shadows with God's presence. As we pray:

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 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*

Lord, in the storms of life bid us come to you.

When we are in danger of being overwhelmed, increase our faith;

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray for areas where your church is struggling or being overwhelmed, for pastors and lay workers facing danger or tempest at this time.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray for the areas of our world overcome by natural disaster, hurricanes, floods, lack of rain; for all swamped by poverty and hunger, for all battered by waves after wave of oppression and violence.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We give thanks for all who have supported us in times of trouble and distress. We pray for friends in need at this time, may we be a strength to them.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray for those who are depressed, fearful, weary or despairing. For the sick in body and mind we know and name before you now.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We remember those who reach out with a helping hand, for carers, social workers, hospital staff, good neighbours and food banks and we give thanks for them.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We give thanks for those who are beyond the storms of this world and have come to rest with you in eternity. May we come in faith to be with you and them in life eternal.

Merciful Father, accept these and all our 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: Gracious Father, revive your church in our day, and make her Holy, strong and faithful, for your glory's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord. 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