

Our Sunday Service Together

August 8th 2021

Trinity 11



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 34.1-8

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
My soul shall glory in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.
O magnify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.
I sought the Lord and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.
Look upon him and be radiant and your faces shall not be ashamed.
This poor soul cried, and the Lord heard me and saved me from all my troubles.
The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him and delivers them.
O taste and see that the Lord is gracious; blessed is the one who trusts in him.
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 4.25 to 5.2

²⁵ So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. ²⁶ Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸ Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labour and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹ Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹ Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³² and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ² and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to 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 John 6.35 and 41-51

³⁵ Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

⁴¹ Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from

heaven.’⁴² They were saying, ‘Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, “I have come down from heaven”?’⁴³ Jesus answered them, ‘Do not complain among yourselves.’⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day.⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, “And they shall all be taught by God.” Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me.⁴⁶ Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father.⁴⁷ Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life.⁴⁸ I am the bread of life.⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.’

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

As we look forward to the end of the Covid restrictions it's interesting to consider what the 'new normal' will look like – will we simply slip back into our old ways or can we grasp it as an opportunity to learn the lessons of the lockdown.

There is no doubt that we develop habits and ways of doing things over time without really considering why. The lockdown has broken some of these habits and it's well worth considering if we should go back to our old ways or is there a better way? One of the habits I am pleased to have been jerked out of has been 'The Archers'. For years we listened to it regularly. However, the format changed with the lockdown and we didn't like it so we gave up and we certainly won't start again.

Another change we have been forced to make is over worship which we have been unable to attend for nearly two years. My parents took me to church every Sunday from a very early age and I have continued every week for over eighty years. So it was a deep shock when I was unable to go and I had to ask myself if it was just another unconsidered habit or is it something fundamental? I very quickly came to the conclusion that it is fundamentally important because it is an opportunity to concentrate on the real meaning and purpose of life.

It also raises the question of how we worship which was when I realised that modern worship is radically different from when I first went to church all those years ago. I also realised that, as a priest and minister, I have been partly responsible for that change. When my parents first took me to church it was very serious, dignified and rather distant. The only orders of service were from the Book of Common Prayer with the readings from the King James Bible. It was beautifully done, but it seemed rather archaic and detached from everyday life. It was almost as if we were transported into another world. The normal service was Morning Prayer. Holy Communion was usually early in the day and was very solemn and serious. I was told at my confirmation that the sacrament was very special and that should only be received after careful self-examination and preparation. It was also expected to be after a time of fasting which was why it was usually early in the day before breakfast.

By the time I went to Theological College there was a growing move towards liturgical reform. It was felt that the services were not very user friendly, the language was archaic and the communion had become elitist. There was a lot of resistance to change, but over the years gradual incremental changes have taken place. Services in contemporary language, new bible translations, sermons shortened and simplified, organs supplemented by pianos and guitars, black cassocks replaced by white albs. Most significantly the Family Communion replaced Morning Prayer as the main service in most churches. The cumulative effect of these changes have resulted in a radical change in the whole concept of worship so I have used the lock down to

consider my reaction. This has been helped by St John's words of Jesus 'I am the Bread of life' which have been the Gospel readings for last Sunday, this Sunday and next Sunday.

My feeling is that the pendulum has swung too far. Yes, worship was in need of reform, but I just wonder if we have gone too far. Have we lost something of the wonder and mystery of the awesome reality that the broken bread and poured out wine of the Eucharist are the broken body and poured out blood of Christ on the cross? So my 'new normal' will be to come back to the communion with an added sense of the sacred mystery of the gift of the Eucharist. I hope that you too will come back with an added understanding of what we have missed and a new appreciation of Jesus as The Bread of Life on which we are fed for the daily journey of faith.

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. *We pray for those who prepare and lead worship. 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 give thanks and pray for farmers and those who prepare our food that they may be justly rewarded for their labour. We pray for the fair distribution of food and for the hungry and starving. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We pray for all those on holiday and having a break from their work that they may be refreshed and renewed. *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. 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 of Glory the end of our searching, help us to lay aside all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom, and to give all that we have to gain the pearl beyond price, through 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