

# Our Sunday Service Together

## September 12th 2021

### Trinity 16



#### 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 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.  
One day pours out its song to another and one night unfolds knowledge to another.  
They have neither speech nor language and their voices are not heard,  
Yet their sound has gone out into all lands and their words to the ends of the world.  
In them has he set a tabernacle for the sun, that comes forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber  
and rejoices as a champion to run his course.  
It goes forth from the end of the heavens and runs to the very end again,  
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.  
The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;  
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.  
The statutes of the Lord are right and rejoice the heart;  
the commandment of the Lord is pure and gives light to the eyes.  
The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever;  
the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.  
More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,  
sweeter also than honey, dripping from the honeycomb.  
By them also is your servant taught and in keeping them there is great reward.  
Who can tell how often they offend?  
O cleanse me from my secret faults!  
Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins lest they get dominion over me;  
so shall I be undefiled,  
and innocent of great offence.  
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,  
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.  
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 James 3.1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup> For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. <sup>3</sup> If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. <sup>4</sup> Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup> So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! <sup>6</sup> And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup> For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, <sup>8</sup> but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup> From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup> Does a spring pour forth

from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? <sup>12</sup> Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

*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 8.27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' <sup>28</sup> And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' <sup>29</sup> He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' <sup>30</sup> And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup> Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days' rise again. <sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

<sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

*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

"For all of us make many mistakes" – what a wonderful thing to hear a leader of the church say! It is easy to judge and forget our common nature before the Almighty.

You wonder what has been happening in the church community for James to write as he has done in his letter so far. At the beginning he reminds folks of the rich blessings they have received from God, of the need to ensure the weakest and neediest are the community's first priority. And now it would seem there have been both hurt filled words used and a lack of grace about how imperfect all people are by nature (even if some feel superior to others)!

The nature of things, especially the nature of a person's heart is the centre of all of James' concerns. St Paul spends many more pages expounding what James brings us in just a few chapters; coming to faith in Christ is a heart and mind, life changing occurrence. For James the proof is really in the pudding; as Jesus said it is not what goes into a man that makes them unclean, but what comes forth from within – the words, the actions, the

passion for justice, righteousness, for grace and for the love of God in the world.

In the gospel today Peter's heart felt realisation about Jesus spills over into words as he declares Jesus is the Messiah. But it is suggested there is some misunderstanding of Messiah on Peter's part, and some blunt words are said. The general hope was for a Messiah who would bring military power and freedom to Israel; like David had done. Jesus instead talks of suffering and of death.

Peter is told quite abruptly not to talk of his realisation; like me, you may find this harsh. James reminds us of the power of the tongue, of a loose tongue especially which can set forth words which will run through a community like a wild fire – and with similar consequences. Rather than run off proclaiming Jesus is Messiah and proclaiming the wrong type of Messiah Peter needed instead to bridle his tongue and listen some more to the words God was speaking in what Jesus would continue to do, and through the cross would shout aloud to the world. The sick are healed, the lame walk, the captive set free, and the year of the Lord's favour is proclaimed. Peter will watch carefully and then his time will come when his tongue will be set free and he will talk of Jesus the Messiah. At that time, rather than destructive fire, peter's words would be filled with the life giving fire of the Holy Spirit; and thousands would come to faith as he had done himself and proclaim Jesus Messiah.

There are good words that can be said and a right time to say them! In between times, like Peter, may we watch for Christ.

## 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*

Let us by prayer and intercession with thanksgiving make our requests to God.

Gracious God, we pray for peace, justice and reconciliation throughout the world.  
We pray for the honouring of human rights, and for the relief of the oppressed.  
We give thanks for all that is gracious in the lives of men, women and children.  
*Lord graciously hear us.*

We pray for the renewal of the Church in faith, love and service.  
We pray for Ruth our bishop and for the life of our parish.  
We give thanks for the gift of your word, the grace of the sacraments and the fellowship of your people.  
*Lord graciously hear us.*

We pray for our community and for all people in their daily life and work.  
We pray for the young and the elderly, for families, and all who are alone.  
We give thanks for human skill and creativity and all that reveals your loveliness.  
*Lord graciously hear us.*

We pray for those who are in need; for the sick, sorrowful and bereaved; especially the family and many friends of Pamela Patton.  
We pray for all who bring comfort, care and healing.  
We give thanks for human love and friendship and for all that enriches our daily lives.  
*Lord graciously hear us.*

We commend ourselves with all our heart, and all for whom we pray, to your loving mercy and protection.  
Amen

## The Collect

All: Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us, open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' ends, 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