

# Our Sunday Service Together

## September 19th 2021

### Trinity 17



#### 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 1

Blessed are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the assembly of the scornful.

Their delight is in the law of the Lord and they meditate on his law day and night.

Like a tree planted by streams of water bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither, whatever they do, it shall prosper.

As for the wicked, it is not so with them; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Therefore, the wicked shall not be able to stand in the judgement, nor the sinner in the congregation of the righteous.

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall perish.

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 3.13 to 4.3 and 7-8a

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup> But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup> Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup> For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup> And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup> You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup> You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

*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 9.30-37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup> for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' <sup>32</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup> Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' <sup>34</sup> But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' <sup>36</sup> Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

*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

Looking to our Gospel reading today it seems two conversations have taken place. In one we hear Jesus talking with the disciples about his forthcoming death and resurrection. He is open and honest about what he sees coming, even if Jesus doesn't give them a low by blow account of what will happen. The second conversation, sorry argument, is amongst the disciples themselves. What is their concern, is it the death Jesus talks of? No, it is who of them should be known as the greatest!

You may have seen images and news bulletins late this week about Boris Johnson's cabinet re-shuffle; the sackings and the promotions. The news channels played the game of showing who now is considered the great and glorious in parliament. The BBC especially reminded us that 2 of the promotions were for long term friends and supporters of Boris – I wonder is this basis for qualification to serve a government department. Interestingly, the new Justice Secretary is an ex-lawyer which would give some confidence they would understand the legal system of the UK; a sound basis for being a minister maybe!

Who is to be the greatest? Well says Jesus 'the first should be the last of all and the servant of all'. In good prophetic style Jesus then reaches for a prop, something that would make the point – a child. Why a child? Well children were regarded as non-persons in that age because socially they were unable to return hospitality. Jesus says such a non-person should be welcomed; he demonstrates this by embracing the child (just as the father figure embraces the errant returning son in the story of the prodigal). Jesus' actions here may not have the impact for us today as they did for the disciples, maybe they should. In his welcome of the child Jesus shows kindness to one with no ability to return the kindness shown.

Having acted Jesus now speaks, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.' It isn't the great, the able, the well-resourced that make God present to us, it is the least able, it is those with little importance that make God present to us.

The disciples did not understand the manner of Jesus' kingdom; it is not at all about who would be king or prime minister. Jesus' call is to serve the least with little regard for personal labels or notoriety. It really is being first by being the last of all! As we note this we are left with much to reflect on and pray about; we are left with a question, 'Who are the ones like children in our midst? In our homes, our neighbourhood, our country, our world?' Jesus word to us is that in welcoming and embracing them, we welcome God the creator of the world into our lives.

## 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 our Father, your kingdom embraces the whole of creation. Guide your church throughout the world to assist in your harvest and speak your truth into areas of doubt. We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith, and for Open Doors and all Christian charities, who take risks to bring your word into places of violence and oppression.

*Lord of faith and trust, help us to trust in you.*

Lord, you search the secret motives of our leaders to reveal hypocrisy and virtue. Our out your spirit of integrity on all world leaders. Grant us all the wisdom to discern your voice and the courage to follow your will.

*Lord of faith and trust, help us to trust in you.*

Lord, you see fully into our hearts and know what we can become. We pray for those who affirm and encourage others, especially teachers and those who care for young and vulnerable people.

*Lord of faith and trust, help us to trust in you.*

Lord, you know our needs and concerns before we ask. Hear us as we bring before you all who are sick or in special need...

Bless them and fill them with your healing strength.

*Lord of faith and trust, help us to trust in you.*

Lord, there is no darkness that can extinguish your eternal light.

In this faith we entrust to you all who have died...

Raise us with them to your eternal kingdom.

*Lord of faith and trust, help us to trust in you.*

## The Collect

All: Gracious God, you call us to fullness of life: deliver us from unbelief and banish our anxieties with the liberating love of 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