

# Our Sunday Service Together

## October 2021

### Trinity 19



#### 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 26

Give judgement for me, O Lord, for I have walked with integrity; I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

Test me, O Lord, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.

For your love is before my eyes; I have walked in your truth.

I have not joined the company of the false, nor consorted with the deceitful.

I hate the gathering of evildoers and I will not sit down with the wicked.

I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord, that I may go about your altar, to make heard the voice of thanksgiving and tell of all your wonderful deeds.

Lord, I love the house of your habitation and the place where your glory abides.

Sweep me not away with sinners, nor my life with the bloodthirsty, whose hands are full of wicked schemes and their right hand full of bribes.

As for me, I will walk with integrity; redeem me, Lord, and be merciful to me.

My foot stands firm; in the great congregation I will bless the Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

## Scripture Reading Hebrews 1.1-4 and 2.5-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. <sup>6</sup>But someone has testified somewhere,

'What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them?' <sup>7</sup>You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honour, <sup>8</sup>subjecting all things under their feet.'

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, <sup>9</sup>but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

<sup>10</sup>It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup>For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason, Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, <sup>12</sup>saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.'

*At the end of the reading we say:* 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 10.2-16

<sup>2</sup> Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?' <sup>3</sup> He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' <sup>4</sup> They said, 'Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.' <sup>5</sup> But Jesus said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. <sup>6</sup> But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." <sup>7</sup> "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, <sup>8</sup> and the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup> Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.'  
<sup>10</sup> Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. <sup>11</sup> He said to them, 'Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; <sup>12</sup> and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.'  
<sup>13</sup> People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. <sup>14</sup> But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. <sup>15</sup> Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' <sup>16</sup> And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

*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

The Pharisees questioning of Jesus is political rather than theological; we are now in the section of Mark's gospel when the trap is being set for Jesus. The line of questioning is familiar and has worked before, just look at what happened to Jesus's cousin John when questions of marriage were used – Herod ensured he was removed from the scene. Jesus has to be removed too!

All the things you talk about are "because of your hardness of heart" Jesus says. It is because of your hardness of heart the Mosaic law you talk of had to be given; and with it the subsequent centuries of Rabbinic interpretation – be this about marriage and divorce, be it about how children are perceived by society, or the orphan and widow ministered to, or...

The writer of the Hebrews paints a picture for us, Da Vinci like, of the divine word coming to earth 'in flesh', a journey which brings both a slightly lower nature than the angels as well as the lower 'realm' of the world rather than the heavens. I wonder if you have ever picked up on how humanity is here noted as a little lower than the angels rather than saying a little lower than God.

The writer is keen for us to make distinctions, for angels and humans are different; angels are of the heavens

whereas humans are of the earth (the name Adam means 'of earth'). But there is a further distinction to be made; the word did not come in angelic form but fully human. The angels proclaimed the good news to shepherds, kings, to Mary and to Joseph, that God's word was come to all in humanity; humanity that is different from the angels in both nature and form, and also in calling. It is this calling that is the kicker for the archangel that would consider themselves equal to God, that would rebel and be cast out – Satan. Angels are angels, humans are humans and neither are equal to God! But each has its calling, its reason for existence and humanity is called, unlike angels, to bear the image of God.

Humanity is called to be life giving within creation; in effect God says to Adam this is my 'cure' and yours with and for me. Humanity is then called to image the grace, justice, peace, mercy and love of God within creation. This is what Jesus is reminding the Pharisees of, it is what we are all reminded of! There has been the need for the Mosaic Law because there is a hardness of heart to this calling – this is the Fall of Adam that Jesus will make amends for in his 'flesh' and his words call us back to. In essence Jesus says, 'now is the time come for your hearts to be softened once again', for it to become possible for you to live out of your calling to love God and one another.

Because of hard hearts the law was given. Because of hard hearts the Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us and opened the way through which hearts could be softened once more. For this reason, he became a little lower than the angels, that humanity could be restored to its true place as bearers of the image of God's love, grace and peace within creation.

I wonder where we see the regulations of the heard hearted applied in our community or even our lives. Where do we see humanity's true calling at work, to be God's image in love and grace and peace; and where might we engage in that calling ourselves.

## 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*

Father, may we show your love and your salvation in our lives, that the church may order its priorities, that it may grow in holiness and in outreach.

*Spirit of God, guide us and strengthen us.*

We pray for all who hunger for goodness and righteousness, for all who serve you by serving others. We pray for world leaders, for all who influence our future, for those who work in the press or broadcasting, for artists, musicians and writers, for those who seek to care for and improve the environment.

*Spirit of God, guide us and strengthen us.*

May your church set an example by the way we live. We seek forgiveness for past transgressions, for the support of fallen and corrupt government systems, rather than offering challenge to the. For times when your church has enabled abuse, racism, inequality or violence within the world. We pray for healing, for redemption and for good relationships and honest dealing.

*Spirit of God, guide us and strengthen us.*

We pray for all who are weak, for the weak willed and weak minded, for all led into crime or vice. We give thanks for and pray for those working for the rehabilitation of addicts or criminals.

*Spirit of God, guide us and strengthen us.*

We remember those who are anxious at this time for their work, their health, their homes or communities. We pray for those depressed or despairing, for all who have lost vision or hope. For the sick, for those facing tests or operations, especially those whose treatment is deferred because of the pandemic's impact on health services. We also pray for all who minister to the sick, the elderly and those in care.

*Spirit of God, guide us and strengthen us.*

We entrust to your power our friends and loved ones in this world, and those who have departed from our sight. We pray that we may all at the last share in the joy and peace of your kingdom.

*Spirit of God, guide us and strengthen us.*

Amen.

## The Collect

All: Faithful Lord, whose steadfast love never ceases and whose mercies never come to an end: Grant us the grace to trust you and to receive the gifts of your love, new every morning, in 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