

Our Sunday Service Together

October 17th 2021

Trinity 21



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 91.9-16

Because you have made the Lord your refuge and the Most High your stronghold,
there shall no evil happen to you, neither shall any plague come near your tent.
For he shall give his angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.
They shall bear you in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone. You
shall tread upon the lion and adder; the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.
Because they have set their love upon me, therefore will I deliver them;
I will lift them up, because they know my name.
They will call upon me and I will answer them; I am with them in trouble,
I will deliver them and bring them to honour. With long life will I satisfy them and show them my salvation.
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 5.1-10

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ²He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; ³and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. ⁴And one does not presume to take this honour, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

⁵ So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'; ⁶ as he says also in another place, 'You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.'

⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹ and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰ having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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 10.35-45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' ³⁶ And he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' ³⁷ And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.' ³⁸ But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' ³⁹ They replied, 'We are able.' Then Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.'

⁴¹ When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. ⁴² So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ⁴³ But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

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 *Rev. John Webb writes:*

Pushy ambitious people can be difficult to get on with and cause resentment among their colleagues. This was certainly the case in our gospel reading when James and John are asking for priority when Jesus establishes his kingdom. At this early stage in his ministry the disciples are still expecting Jesus to lead a rebellion and establish some sort of rule like that of his predecessor the great King David. As such Jesus would have power and authority with all the perks of wealth and privilege that go with it and it looked as if James and John were seeking to gain a share in it. The other disciples resent this power bid and Jesus must have been aware that it could cause a serious rupture in their fellowship. It would have been a great disappointment to Jesus that in spite of what he had been teaching the disciples still had not understood the radical nature of his message.

We might have expected Jesus to reprimand James and John and express sadness that they still misunderstood what he was saying. But his response was to ask them the enigmatic question 'are you able to drink the cup that I drink'. This may sound odd to us, but Jesus is asking them if they are willing to follow him wherever that may lead. To their credit they have the courage to say that they will although they can have had very little idea what that would mean. Jesus then goes on to say that in his kingdom earthly expectations of greatness will be turned upside-down, and that leadership will be in service not power. He is presenting a radically new model of leadership quite different from what they were expecting.

James and John both became very important and influential leaders of the early church but had very different 'cups to drink'. For James it was in giving up his life as the first of the apostles to be martyred, while by contrast John exercised a long and influential ministry and was probably the last of the apostles to die. His

lasting gift to the church is his gospel which reveals a unique understanding of the life, death and above all the resurrection of Jesus.

Just as Jesus asked James and John 'are you able to drink the cup that I drink?' so it might be that same question is echoing down the ages to all those who try to follow him. Are we prepared to commit our lives to his service in whatever situation we may find ourselves as James and John did? Are we prepared to say yes when we don't know where that might lead?

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 of England that it may continue to faithfully serve the whole community. We pray for Bishop Ruth and the diocesan staff as they take on extra responsibilities and prepare for a new Bishop.
Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We Pray for Our Queen, Prime Minister, and all World leaders, that they may be motivated by the spirit of wisdom and service. May they have the courage to take difficult and unpopular decisions without fear or favour. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We pray for the leaders and people of Afghanistan as they seek to establish a new regime after so many years of suffering and disruption. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We pray for homeless and refugees and those working to overcome their many problems.
Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are unemployed that they may find fulfilling work.
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.

The Collect

All: God, the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:
by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. 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