

Our Sunday Service Together

July 10th 2022

4th Sunday after Trinity



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 25.1-10

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies triumph over me.
Let none who look to you be put to shame, but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.
Make me to know your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
for you have I hoped all the day long.
Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.
Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions,
but think on me in your goodness, O Lord, according to your steadfast love.
Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore, shall he teach sinners in the way.
He will guide the humble in doing right and teach his way to the lowly.
All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.
For your name's sake, O Lord, be merciful to my sin, for it is great.
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 Colossians 1.1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

²To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

³In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel ⁶that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. ⁷This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow-servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, ⁸and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit. ⁹For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

This is the word of the Lord

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 Luke 10.25-37

²⁵ Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' ²⁶ He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' ²⁷ He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' ²⁸ And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'

²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' ³⁰ Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' ³⁷ He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

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 story of the Good Samaritan is probably one of the most well-known stories of Jesus. Woods and trees can come to mind when we find ourselves thinking we know all there is to know about stories like this one.

There has been a lot of words in recent months, in this week especially, from folks seeking to justify actions; be they another person's or their own. This story is told amidst a conversation with someone seeking to have clarity for their actions, for other people's actions maybe. But is it? Might it also be to publically have Jesus discredit his own actions and teaching; is it another trap?

The Torah, the Law, expert comes to Jesus and asks about actions consistent with inheriting eternal life, Jesus responds by returning the question, asking "What is written in the Law?" and inquiring about this expert's interpretation of the Torah. The man answers using the central commands to love God and love neighbour and Jesus affirms that his interpretation is correct. But this is not enough for the man who then seems to want to "justify himself" and so asks the now-infamous question, "And who is my neighbour?"

When you are seeking to live by a set of rules having these closely defined for you always helps. Knowing who you should help and when is very much a concern for the keeper of the Torah. Jesus, however doesn't give the specifics the man is asking for, not at least when it comes to 'who is our neighbour'. The story that unfolds tells us just one thing about the neighbour; they are in need of help. Jesus suggests God is not concerned beyond the fact that it is a human being in need. This is a broad category, the Torah keeper would have been content I am sure if Jesus had said to help only another Jew, or maybe just other Torah keepers, and they may have been OK if it were widows and orphans in the community. But the definition of simply seeing a need to be met

in another human being removes all justifying categories; there is no concern for gender, age, ethnicity, religion, sinful lifestyle, sexuality, ability, wealth or poverty, everyone is a neighbour and all can be in need of help.

In the story we see a Samaritan who rescues a Jewish man who had been attacked, robbed, and left for dead. In contrast to this Samaritan we hear of a priest and a Levite, who both see the desperate man but “passed by on the other side”. These two should be the “good guys” of the story; with the Samaritan not expected to stop and help, given past conflicts between Jew and Samaritan.

Jesus shows us that acting with compassion to another human being in desperate need is both the tangible sign of ‘being’ a neighbour and a sign of what it really means to belong to God’s people, to be of Israel. Jesus turns all the questioning upside down for the important question is not ‘who is my neighbour, who might I be justified helping?’ instead the question we are asked by Jesus is ‘am in being a good neighbour like the Samaritan and ministering to another human being’s need?’

Being a true Israelite is then not about nationality or about religious observance beyond the core principles of worshiping God with all and of being a neighbour to those in need. We get this I am sure and cheer the story to its conclusion, until possibly we read Jesus saying ‘go and do likewise’. Being compassionate can be difficult, especially when we see so much need about us. It is easy to freeze looking at the need but I wonder if the first part of our core principle sets us free from such fear.

If we make our first priority to love God with all we are and have, we soon discover that God loves us simply for who we are; and each of us is differently able. There is a freedom in the simplicity that we each can love God with all we are and also do what we can to help others about us in need. We can’t do everything, but that should not stop us from doing what we can and being a good neighbour.

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, you created us for love and for eternity, and you gave your Son that we should not perish but have everlasting life; as you give us life and love, as you give us yourself, help us to give our lives, our love and ourselves to you.

Let us pray!

Lord of life, may your church proclaim your saving power. Strengthen all who seek to extend our lives and visions of you. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Lord, forgive us where we are divided, and make us one body: we pray for all who work for unity and for peace. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Lord of peace, be with those suffering from war, all divided peoples, all separated from loved ones, families and friends. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray for refugees and displaced person, for those living in slum conditions or on the streets, for all living in paces that are not fit for human flourishing. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Lord, as you have given to us in abundance, may we seek to share with any in need. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

In our community help us to overcome divisions, root out all that would poison or spoil our well-being. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray for families that are divided, for all suffering from factions and broken relationships; for Jerusalem, for Northern Ireland. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Lord of love, we pray for all who are seen as untouchable, for people who are rejected and feared by others. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Comfort all who lack opportunity or ambition. Those who have no affection, who live in isolation, he broken hearted and broken spirited. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Give strength to those who watch by the beds of the sick and the dying. Comfort those who have lost loved ones this week. We pray in faith for our loved ones departed, may we arise with them to life eternal at the resurrection of the Lord.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers through our saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.

The Collect

All: O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, 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