

Our Sunday Service Together

16th October 2022

18th 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 Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
He will not suffer your foot to stumble; he who watches over you will not sleep.
Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord himself watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
So that the sun shall not strike you by day, neither the moon by night.
The Lord shall keep you from all evil; it is he who shall keep your soul.
The Lord shall keep watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth for evermore.
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 Genesis 32.22-31

²²The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, 'Let me go, for the day is breaking.' But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me.' ²⁷So he said to him, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Jacob.' ²⁸Then the man said, 'You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.' ²⁹Then Jacob asked him, 'Please tell me your name.' But he said, 'Why is it that you ask my name?' And there he blessed him. ³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.' ³¹The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

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 18.1-8

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, "Grant me justice against my opponent." ⁴ For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, "Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" ⁶ And the Lord said, 'Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?'

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

After some 81 defensive tackles by the French team in this week's rugby world cup match England scored. The commentator said 'knock on the door often enough and it will open'. Perseverance pays off, not just in rugby, it does more so in prayer!

Luke notes in his gospel this story of Jesus for a very good reason. Some 30 years after the resurrection and ascension the church faces opposition, hardship, perplexity and risks apathy, more so risks listening to those who say 'you asked once and nothing has happened, why bother clearly God is not listening to you!'

We do need to take care as we read the story because some will want to say it is telling us God is unjust like the judge in the story. Not so! This is a story to show us the contrast between a patently unjust judge who can be goaded into behaving properly and, as Jesus repeatedly highlights elsewhere, a loving heavenly Father who responds in compassion to those who seek his help. That truth being said, we would always be wise to remember the response may not be in the instant we ask or quite in the way expected. This is no reason to not pray because very often will need to be persistent and persevere.

Jacob discovered this, he found he needed to wrestle, and wrestle some more, and keep wrestling until ... Well it would be easy to think he continued until he was defeated by the angel, but is this the case? At all times, within the struggle, Jacob seems to be held by the angel, who could crush him at any instant should that be the aim (note how easily Jacobs hip is put out at the start of things).

Rather than stop Jacob wrestling the angel seems to enable him, and as Jacob's energy saps, to hold him up. At the end of the tussle Jacob rejoices and says, 'I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved'; and more he receives what he came for, a blessing. And what a blessing, now he would be Israel rather than Jacob. Here is the promise of a nation, a people under God who would arguably come to birth through having to wrestle with God on a regular basis.

Prayer transforms everything. It transforms the situations we intercede for. It also transforms the lives of those who pray. But pray we must if transformation is to be seen, if the blessing is to be received – pray persistently, aloud, in silence, in quiet contemplation, nattering, indoors or out in the open, on our own or with others. And pray expectantly because if we keep knocking on the door, it will open!

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. 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: Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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.

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