

Our Sunday Service Together

Sunday November 6th 2022



An Acclamation for the Season

All: Alleluia, alleluia! To you we come, Father of lights, with angels and saints, where heaven and earth unite. May Jesus meet us in the breaking of the bread. 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

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit. Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice, and confess our sins to God our redeemer.

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 149

Alleluia. O sing to the Lord a new song; sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.

Let Israel rejoice in their maker; let the children of Zion be joyful in their king.

Let them praise his name in the dance; let them sing praise to him with timbrel and lyre.

For the Lord has pleasure in his people and adorns the poor with salvation.

Let the faithful be joyful in glory; let them rejoice in their ranks,

With the praises of God in their mouths and a two-edged sword in their hands;

To execute vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples;

To bind their kings in chains and their nobles with fetters of iron;

To execute on them the judgement decreed: such honour have all his faithful servants.

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 Ephesians 1.11-23

¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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 6.20-31

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ 'Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

'Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

²² 'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴ 'But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ 'Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

'Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ 'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

²⁷ 'But I say to you that listen, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

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

"For all the Saints who from their labours rest", so goes the obligatory hymn for the festival of 'All Saints' - and rightly so.

I suspect, when we think of saints, we think of the big ones, like Matthew, Mark, Valentine, Hilda, Theresa, or Peter and Paul. Whilst honourable examples of folks of faith these people are not really the focus of the hymn, neither are they who Paul had in mind as he wrote to the faithful in Ephesus.

All are Saints! This is what hymn writer and Paul are saying. In the hymn we are called to remember all who have walked with Christ and who now rest from their earthly journey, from their wrestling with God and contending with the world about them. Paul considers the saintly to be the everyday faithful who strive to follow Christ in the context in which they live and work and play.



All are Saints, or maybe better, Saints in the making. I am sure you will have seen the image below – ‘the evolution of man’.



In depicting the sense that humanity has been evolving from an ape like ancestry to the hominid nature we have today it talks of the journey of development, of a ‘now’ because of the past, but also suggests a future possibility. Saints, become saintly over time, a life time, as they walk the journey of faith in Christ.

This is echoed by Paul when he says elsewhere in his writings that the call of the faithful is to be ‘Ever changed from one degree of glory to another’. It is voiced in the modern hymn, ‘Shine Jesus shone’ with the words ‘ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell your story’.

‘Now and what will be’ is the theme running through the gospel passage today. Yes, we read of an upside down world where it seems that those suffering are in fact blessed, and those who have achieved in life, who have wealth, reputation and satisfaction are in fact ‘woeful’, and to be pitied. It is not in itself a blessing to be poor or hungry, or without heating in the winter.

But Jesus asks us to look deeper, beneath the veil of privation and sorrow and glimpse what God sees of us, and more what the future will be. Everything is up for change and development into a new reality for those in Christ, so the ‘now’ becomes ‘will’; you weep now, but you will laugh; you are deprived now, but you have the entire kingdom.

We find a calling here to be those who walk with Christ from our ‘now’ into our what ‘will’ be. To be people of hope, to allow the spirit to change and transform us from sinner to saint, from lost to redeemed, from those who appear to have nothing but who in reality have everything in Christ.

We are called to make the journey, to evolve, to be changed by the Spirit of God as we walk with Christ and to stand tall as Saints, as those who are rich through a glorious inheritance – and to one-day rest.

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

Jesus our exalted Lord has been given all authority.

Let us seek his intercession, that our prayers may be perfected by his prayer.

Jesus Christ, great high priest, living for ever to intercede for us:

pray for your Church, your broken body in the world ...

Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, King of righteousness, enthroned at the right hand of the majesty on high:

pray for the world, and make it subject to your gentle rule ...

Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, Son of man, drawing humanity into the life of God:

pray for your brothers and sisters in need, distress or sorrow ...

Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, pioneer of our salvation, bringing us to your glory through your death and resurrection:

pray for all who are dying, that they may trust in your promises ...

Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, Lord of all things, ascended far above from the heavens and filling the universe:

pray for us who receive the gifts you give us for work in your service ...

Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, first-fruits of the new creation, keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, until you bring the whole created order to worship at your feet;

for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect

All: Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; 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.