

# Our Sunday Service Together

June 11<sup>th</sup> 2023

1<sup>st</sup> 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 50.7-15

Hear, O my people, and I will speak: 'I will testify against you, O Israel; for I am God, your God.

'I will not reprove you for your sacrifices, for your burnt offerings are always before me.

'I will take no bull out of your house, nor he-goat out of your folds,

'For all the beasts of the forest are mine, the cattle upon a thousand hills.

'I know every bird of the mountains and the insect of the field is mine.

'If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the whole world is mine and all that fills it.

'Do you think I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats?

'Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and fulfil your vows to God Most High.

'Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you and you shall honour me.'

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 Romans 4.13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup> Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' <sup>19</sup> He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup> No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup> being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup> Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' <sup>23</sup> Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup> but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup> who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

*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 Matthew 9.9-13 and 18-26

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

<sup>10</sup> And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' <sup>12</sup> But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup> Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, 'My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.' <sup>19</sup> And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. <sup>20</sup> Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, <sup>21</sup> for she said to herself, 'If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.' <sup>22</sup> Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, 'Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.' And instantly the woman was made well. <sup>23</sup> When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute-players and the crowd making a commotion, <sup>24</sup> he said, 'Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. <sup>25</sup> But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. <sup>26</sup> And the report of this spread throughout that district.

*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

I do worry sometimes if there are not enough 'sinners and tax collectors' in our churches. When I say 'sinners and tax collectors' I am sure you instantly know who I am talking of, the folks we consider outside our sensibilities, those who live in the wrong road, those who do the jobs beneath the rest of us, those your mum would say to keep away from because they have fleas and are dirty. If we take note of Matthew's gospel today it seems these folks are the very people Jesus makes a be-line for and sits down and eats with.

Jesus act of sitting down is not just having a cuppa and a biscuit with folks. Sitting and eating in the manner suggested in Matthew is a central part of Judaism, which points to being accepted, of hospitality being both given and received. In his actions Jesus both says these folks are welcomed as God's people, as he receives their hospitality and in his call to 'come follow after me'.

It is hardly surprising that those with religious sensibilities are vexed by Jesus' actions; they are scandalous! No Rabbi of any good calling from God, no holy God for that matter would stoop to this level, would come sit

with sinners and tax collectors! And more so, no God would accept the touch and offer healing, as Jesus does, to a woman 'unclean' by her condition. And more, no Rabbi would go to the dead, to touch a body and pray for God's grace as Jesus jumps up to do. This is all completely scandalous behaviour.

'But', says Paul 'look', this is actually our God's way of things. Being righteous before God has never been about 'keeping the letter of the law'. It has, ever since God's call to Abraham and Sarah, been simply a matter of faith. And more, it is not a matter for our judgement who is acceptable in the faith; this is for God alone, in Christ! God in Christ accounts righteousness to any and all who have faith in him; this is truly scandalous – God would welcome and call sinners and tax collectors! But then the healthy do not need a doctor.

In many churches today we can find those who tell us, and most likely also God, who can and cannot be accepted and receive the call to 'come follow after me'. Matthew, the Tax-collector was despised, yet Jesus extends God's welcome and his call to follow after, to be his disciple. Do we, as a church, or even individually outwardly - or just with a vibe - tell folks, tell God maybe, who can be accepted by God and called to follow after? Do we outwardly or just through a vibe make it known who would fit our worshipping community, or do we welcome as God welcomes? Are we open to following after Jesus and seeking out the 'sinners and tax collectors' offering them welcome and receiving their hospitality?

## 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*

God of light and power, we rejoice in your light, we live in your power, we look for your glory.

Open our eyes to perceive your presence, that we may give ourselves to you...  
*Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers.*

We give thanks for the light that is revealed to us in the face of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lord, enlighten your church where vision is dim and the light of the gospel nearly gone out.  
*Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers.*

We pray for spiritual renewal, for an increase in vision and hope. We remember all who are prophets and visionaries today. *Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers.*

Lord, direct all who are seeking to improve the world. We pray for peace-makers, for relief agencies, for all involved in scientific research, for all who hunger for righteousness and justice.  
*Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers.*

We give thanks for all who have led us to you, all who shared insight and knowledge, all who kept the lamp of faith burning. *Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers.*

We pray for all who have entered into weakness, into sadness or into trouble this week, all who have been injured in accidents, the afflicted and perplexed, the persecuted and the forsaken.

*Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers.*

We rejoice that the afflicted will know affection, the perplexed will know purpose, the persecuted will come to your peace, the forsaken will be enfolded in love, in the fullness of your kingdom. We pray for our loved ones departed. *Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers.*

May the joy of your presence, visions of your glory and the hope of your kingdom close at hand, strengthen us and give us your peace.

*Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

## The Collect

All: O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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