

Our Sunday Service Together

June 25th 2023

3rd 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 69.7-10 and 16-18

Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me, Lord God of hosts;
let not those who seek you be disgraced because of me, O God of Israel.
For your sake have I suffered reproach; shame has covered my face.
I have become a stranger to my kindred, an alien to my mother's children.
Zeal for your house has eaten me up; the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.
Draw me out of the mire, that I sink not; let me be rescued from those who hate me
and out of the deep waters.
Let not the water flood drown me, neither the deep swallow me up;
let not the Pit shut its mouth upon me.
Answer me, Lord, for your loving-kindness is good; turn to me in the multitude of your mercies.
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 Romans 6.1b - 11

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.
⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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 10. 24-39

²⁴ 'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; ²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶ 'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² 'Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ 'Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; ³⁶ and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

³⁷ Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

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

Revd. J Webb writes:

I'm sure we have all been in a situation when we have joined people in the middle of a conversation and can't fathom out what they are talking about and get an entirely wrong impression. This is how I feel about to-day's gospel reading. Taken on its own it gives the impression that Jesus' mission is all about stirring up hatred and conflict, but if we go back to the beginning of the section it will look rather different. At the beginning of this chapter Jesus warns his disciples that their mission is not going to be easy and that it will meet opposition and persecution. Indeed, when St Matthew wrote this he would have remembered that Jesus had been crucified and that many of his followers had been martyred. So, in this passage Jesus is warning his disciples of what is ahead and how to deal with it. To do this he gives them two memorable images – they will be like 'sheep among wolves' and they are to be 'wise as serpents and innocent as doves'. As an agricultural community they would have been aware of the bloody spectacle of sheep attacked by wolves and left in no doubt that following Jesus could have dire consequences. We should be thankful that it is a long time since anybody was actually martyred in this country although sadly they are in other parts of the world.

When we are told to be 'wise as serpents and innocent as doves' we are facing the reality that although the teachings of Jesus are clear and direct summed up as love God and love your neighbour. But their application in a world where there are evil forces is not easy, and that however much we may regret it compromises have to be made. This has been high-lighted for me over the war in Ukraine. It is clear that territory was illegally occupied and that justice would be served by repelling the invaders and that is our government's position, which I would support. However, the result is that my taxes are being used to supply guns and ammunition specifically to kill people when I know life is sacred and killing people is wrong. That makes me feel very uncomfortable. I wonder if that is what Jesus had in mind when he said, 'Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.' Most people

would agree that repelling invaders is right but we must at least ask if that is a price worth paying if the result is that vast areas of the country are reduced to rubble. Would it be better to compromise and save lives and property? Would the pragmatic answer be to give up some territory and end the war? But the result of that might be that any powerful country will feel free to occupy their weaker neighbours' territory. These are difficult questions with no easy answers.

In this very difficult passage Jesus is leaving his disciples in no doubt that following him is not a soft and easy option. It will mean facing up to the very real and powerful forces of evil and that this may well, as in the war in Ukraine, result in suffering, death and apparent failure. But he also stresses that in the end, just as at Calvary, there will be the triumph of the love of God in resurrection and new life.

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 Bishops Michael and Ruth and all those who seek to serve you in this diocese May they be filled with the Spirit and speak with authority. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for world leaders that they may be 'wise as serpents and innocent as doves' in their dealings with each other. Especially we pray for the leaders of Ukraine and Russia that a just solution may be found for their dispute, and for the peoples of Ukraine and Russia that they may become good neighbours to each other. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for our King, Prime Minister, members of parliament and local councillors that they may have the Spirit of wisdom to lead us through this difficult time. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for all babies as they start their journey of life, that they may be surrounded by love and affection. *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 those who suffer as a result of war and for those who work to relieve their suffering. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for the sick, suffering, dying and those who mourn and we give thanks and pray for those who care for them. *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.

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: Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father:
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,
that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; 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