

Our Sunday Service Together

July 9th 2023

5th 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 145.8-14

The Lord is gracious and merciful, long-suffering and of great goodness.

The Lord is loving to everyone and his mercy is over all his creatures.

All your works praise you, O Lord, and your faithful servants bless you.

They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your mighty power,

To make known to all peoples your mighty acts and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.

The Lord is sure in all his words and faithful in all his deeds.

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 7.15-25a

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our 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 Matthew 11.16-19 and 25-30

¹⁶ ‘But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,

¹⁷ “We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon”; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!” Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ ‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

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

Do we subtitle the gospel passage today, ‘some people are never happy!’, or maybe ‘some will always grumble and moan from the side lines rather than join in with joy and delight!’.

Jesus is probably drawing on words of the prophet Zechariah who talks of a market square with the elderly and the young gathered and engaged in complaining about each other. The old look with disdain on how the young run about (the complaints are probably made through personal grief at their loss of energy and drive).

Meanwhile, the young comment on the daft old codgers sitting about the place and not joining in the fun (failing to remember they could learn some wisdom for life from these folks). It all reminds me of how the ‘veteran’ golfers used to complain about us ‘juniors’ making too much noise and having fun on the golf course whilst we nattered about how slow the old folks were ahead of us and wishing they would let us through.

The messiah has come, the new glorious future is here for all to receive, is the declaration John makes. But rather than join in the celebrations, rather than joining in with the life Jesus is inviting them to receive – the yoke he is offering, they moan and complain! They moan and complain that Jesus doesn’t ‘do faith’ the way they do things, they complain he eats and drinks too much whilst John too little. They all miss what God is up to in Jesus.

It is all too easy to miss what God is doing today in Christ, to be fixed on old ways and complain about the new-fangled things, and miss out! It is all too easy to keep with a way of doing things, with a yoke that is burdensome and heavy, and miss the yoke Jesus offers.

This is part of Paul’s realisation and message in Romans. The personal fight to remain ‘good’ in God’s eyes, the work required to remain self-righteous and live without sin is, in the end, debilitating and life draining. The call is to step into a ‘perfect freedom’ offered through Christ’s righteousness, offered through his yoke. The call is to be released from striving to please God and instead live a life in the light of his eternal pleasure in us through Christ!

We can receive the freedom of the children of God in Christ. We can shed the burden of religious adherence and seeking to earn God’s pleasure through the law and take up an easy yoke with a light burden or we can stay on the side lines and grumble and moan.

I know which I would rather be doing!

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*

We pray for our bishops, Michael and Ruth and all who seek to lead and bless our diocese at this time. May they be filled with the Spirit and serve you as the first disciples. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We Pray for our Government and all in need of wise council at this time to bring your grace, peace and justice to all lands. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We pray for the victims of war, injustice, prejudice and abuse that they may find peace and reconciliation. May we never forget that all people are loved and valued by God regardless of differences.
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 the sick, suffering and dying and we give thanks and pray for those who use their skill and risk their lives to care for them. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer*

Hear us as we remember those who have died..... According to your promises grant them a share in your eternal kingdom. *Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen*

The Collect

All: Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, 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