

# Our Sunday Service Together

July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023

4<sup>th</sup> 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 89.1-4 and 15-18

My song shall be always of the loving-kindness of the Lord:  
with my mouth will I proclaim your faithfulness throughout all generations.  
I will declare that your love is established for ever;  
you have set your faithfulness as firm as the heavens.  
For you said: 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:  
"Your seed will I establish for ever and build up your throne for all generations."

Happy are the people who know the shout of triumph:  
they walk, O Lord, in the light of your countenance.  
In your name they rejoice all the day long and are exalted in your righteousness.  
For you are the glory of their strength, and in your favour you lift up our heads.  
Truly the Lord is our shield; the Holy One of Israel is our king.  
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 6.12-23

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. <sup>13</sup> No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. <sup>14</sup> For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. <sup>15</sup> What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup> Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, <sup>18</sup> and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. <sup>19</sup> I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. <sup>20</sup> When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup> So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup> But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus 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 10. 40-42

<sup>40</sup> 'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup> Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; <sup>42</sup> and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.'

*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

It would appear from Matthew's gospel that folks receiving discouraging responses from the people they have 'gone out' to bless with works of the kingdom, with the good news of Jesus is nothing new. We probably think it is just an issue with our age, with the Northern Hemisphere where church attendance is reducing at an alarming rate; but it has been the same throughout the time of Christ.

Jesus concludes his missionary discourse in Matthew 10 with a Spirit-filled pep talk about rewards for those who receive and treat well his disciples and apostles, who go forth and proclaim the gospel. This sense of receiving a blessing for having blessed those come to you, those you receive, was not a new concept for Jesus and his disciples, it is a common theme throughout the Old Testament.

Jesus promises that those who bless them along the way will not lose their reward. Something as innocent and simple as a cup of cold water given to those who serve will insure that the givers of such will not lose their reward. But what is the reward? How does talk of this encourage folks to go and not be discouraged in their good works for the kingdom?

Jesus first words in verse 40 sound ambassadorial; whomever receives you also receives me, and whomever receives me receives him (the Father) who sent me. The disciples go in Jesus' name and is sent in the Father's love to the world. But is there something more here?

Jesus has been sent by the Father to love, to make manifest God's presence to the world in tangible ways – here is the essence of incarnation, God's love is embodied in Christ. Those who received Jesus then receive the Father. In Jesus' actions and words, it isn't just a nice human folks encounter but the love of God incarnate. In welcoming Jesus, we are rewarded with seeing, knowing, encountering God's love for us.

As Jesus is sent by the Father, so he sends his disciples. In welcoming his disciples Jesus is welcomed, and in his welcome folks are rewarded in knowing and being known by the Father.

In a conversation this week about the need for young women to encounter successful business women the interviewer stated 'you have to see to be'. As Jesus sends his disciples it with the simple calling to go and show him to the world, just as he has come to show the Father. To go, and like he himself has done, to be those who inspire others to be truly human, to be images of God and the love of God in the world. And what a love, that in spite of knock backs and rejections continues beyond being nice, even to the cross, giving everything for others and the glory of God.

Without seeing this love how can folks aspire to be that love themselves? Without being able to welcome Jesus how can folks know the reward of the Father's welcome. To welcome Jesus requires folks to go in his love, to risk the knock back and discouragements; the question is 'will we go, as he calls us too?'

## 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*

Come, Lord, come to us, that we may love you, live to your glory and proclaim you Kingdom in Jesus Christ and by the power of your Spirit. *Lord, we come to you – give us rest and refreshment.*

We pray for leaders, visionaries, researchers, for those who may have become dispirited by the task they face, wearied by the work they do. *Lord, we come to you – give us rest and refreshment.*

We pray for the refugees of the world, for nations struggling with flood and drought, for the UN and the W.H.O as they seek to bring relief. *Lord, we come to you – give us rest and refreshment.*

We pray for all who have lost the joy and pleasure of living, for the bored, the cynical, the lonely. The overworked and the stressed. *Lord, we come to you – give us rest and refreshment.*

Lord, make our homes places of peace and calm. We pray for families in strife, for relationships strained, for those suffering from domestic violence and abuse. *Lord, we come to you – give us rest and refreshment.*

We pray for the over anxious, the depressed and despairing, all those suffering from a breakdown. For all not coping alone and for those facing redundancy at this time.  
*Lord, we come to you – give us rest and refreshment.*

We pray for all who are fully in your Kingdom, for whom the tussle of this life is over and the rest of your presence is complete ..... and we give you thanks for your grace for them and for us in Christ Jesus our lord. Amen

## The Collect

All: O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, 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