

Our Sunday Service Together

August 13th 2023

10th 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 85.8-13

I will listen to what the Lord God will say, for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful, that they turn not again to folly.

Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other;

Truth shall spring up from the earth and righteousness look down from heaven.

The Lord will indeed give all that is good, and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before him and direct his steps in the way.

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 10.5-15

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that 'the person who does these things will live by them.' But the righteousness that comes from faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?"' (that is, to bring Christ down) 'or "Who will descend into the abyss?"' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say?

'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'

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 14.22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

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

Most often, and for good pastoral reasons, sermons on this passage in Matthew focus attention on Peter. There is encouragement for us all; if Jesus' number 1 disciple can stumble and begin to sink then this can happen to anyone. Peter becomes a symbol for all of us when we hold a doubt.

But the Gospels are written with the primary goal of focusing our attention on Jesus, and onto his doing the "actions of God"; Jesus famously says he only does what he sees the Father doing.

When a storm arises while the disciples are on the sea of Galilee, Jesus resolves to meet them exactly where they are: "And in the fourth watch of the night, he went to them, walking on the sea". The last time there was a storm the disciples were caught in Jesus simply calms the wind and the sea. This time he does something very different, he goes to them, he joins them in the storm.

Every description of Jesus' life in the Gospels has theological meaning related to the God and people of Israel. Jesus decides to walk on water because this is what God had done at the creation of the world. The disciples, of course, do not make the connection. In fact, their response is quite the opposite, they're terrified because they think they've seen a "ghost".

Whereas before he spoke to calm the stormy waters about the boat, this time he speaks to calm the storm in their hearts and minds – His is a peace beyond understanding! As he approaches the boat, he declares, "Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid"; or better "Take heart, I am. Do not be afraid".

'I am', the very words uttered to Moses and the people of Israel. If walking on water weren't enough to reflect his divine status, Matthew's Jesus repeats the very words of God.

The disciples proclaim Jesus' divinity, 'truly you are the Son of God', and they worship him. These words will feature later in the gospel when, after he breathes his last on the cross, the soldier declares 'truly this was the Son of God'. The disciples had used this title after Jesus rescued Peter as he called out, "Save me!". During the Passion, the chief priests, scribes, and elders unknowingly recall this moment when they say of a crucified Jesus, "He saved others; he cannot save himself".

Paul's argument in Romans is that where the Law of Moses could not save, God's actions in Christ do exactly that. And more, rather than simply saving us from death by drowning, in Christ God acts to save us from the death wrought by sin.

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*

Lord, in the storms of life bid us come to you. When we are in danger of being overwhelmed, increase our faith; *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray for areas where your church is struggling or being overwhelmed, for pastors and lay workers facing danger or tempest at this time. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray for the areas of our world overcome by natural disaster, hurricanes, floods, lack of rain; for all swamped by poverty and hunger, for all battered by waves after wave of oppression and violence. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We give thanks for all who have supported us in times of trouble and distress. We pray for friends in need at this time, may we be a strength to them. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray for those who are depressed, fearful, weary or despairing. For the sick in body and mind we know and name before you now. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We remember those who reach out with a helping hand, for carers, social workers, hospital staff, good neighbours and food banks and we give thanks for them. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We give thanks for those who are beyond the storms of this world and have come to rest with you in eternity. May we come in faith to be with you and them in life eternal. *Merciful Father, accept these and all our prayers for the sake of your son, our saviour Jesus Christ, Amen*

The Collect

All: Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please 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

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