

# Our Sunday Service Together

August 6<sup>th</sup> 2023

9<sup>th</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 145.8-9 and 14-21

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.

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

The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up all those who are bowed down.

The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, and you give them their food in due season.

You open wide your hand and fill all things living with plenty.

The Lord is righteous in all his ways and loving in all his works.

The Lord is near to those who call upon him, to all who call upon him faithfully.

He fulfils the desire of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.

The Lord watches over those who love him, but all the wicked shall he destroy.

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 9.1-5

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

*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 14.13-21

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages

and buy food for themselves.’ Jesus said to them, ‘They need not go away; you give them something to eat.’ They replied, ‘We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.’ And he said, ‘Bring them here to me.’ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

*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

Hearing of John’s execution, and following a period of intense ministry, Jesus withdraws by himself for some prayer.

Paul too takes a moment in his letter to the Romans and we see for a moment, the pastor’s heart, the longing for all to know the joy he has found in Christ.

In the pause of Jesus, and of his disciple Paul, we are invited to remember that following the ways of God’s kingdom take a toll at times, both personally as well as relationally.

The heartbeat of Paul’s letter to the Romans is God’s relationship to both Jews and Gentiles. Up to this point, Paul has argued that both Jews and Gentiles independently exist in a broken relationship with God. But God, through the faith of Christ, sets out to reconcile both Jews and Gentiles to God.

Many have suggested over the years that Paul replaces Judaism with Christianity, but this would be to miss his call for all to be followers of Jesus. And more, for all Gentiles to remember that the faith they have found in Jesus Christ is rooted in Judaism. As much as Paul is eager for Gentiles to come to faith, he is grieved that his Hebrew brothers and sisters have not entered into the ‘full’ relationship with God he has come to find in Christ.

You get the sense that Paul, in now living a fulfilled Jewish faith he found in Christ Jesus, has seen folks he loves, he grew up with, he has lived cheek by jowl with, now shun him. This week’s epistle reminds us that the journey we take in Christ can take a toll on our relationships. Like Paul, it is good to name our emotions and the ways this makes us feel. Jesus too is impacted by the loss of his cousin. However, both he and Paul do not lose hope for they know, and would remind us, with God all things are possible, nothing is ever lost. As the psalmist says; “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.”

## 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 the church that it may continue to work faithfully and patiently for the coming of the Kingdom of God. We pray that we may be open to your presence and giftings to us in all times and seasons. Help your church to be always seeking to grow in personal discipleship and good works for the sake of the gospel.  
*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We give thanks and pray for farmers and those who prepare our food that they may be justly rewarded for their labour. We pray for the fair distribution of food and for the hungry and starving. We pray for those near and far coping with drought and flood at this time. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer*

We pray for all those on holiday and having a break from their work that they may be refreshed and renewed.  
*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 ..... *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer*

We pray for those who mourn the death of loved ones..... may they find peace. *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. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

## The Collect

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church:  
open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit  
in love and joy and peace; 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