

Our Sunday Service Together

Remembrance Sunday 2023



An Acclamation for the Season

All: This I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning.

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

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit. Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice, and confess our sins to God our redeemer.

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 9:9-20 *We say the psalm aloud*

Then will the Lord be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in the time of trouble.

And those who know your name will put their trust in you, for you, Lord, have never failed those who seek you.

Sing praises to the Lord who dwells in Zion; declare among the peoples the things he has done.

The avenger of blood has remembered them; he did not forget the cry of the oppressed.

Have mercy upon me, O Lord; consider the trouble I suffer from those who hate me, you that lift me up from the gates of death;

That I may tell all your praises in the gates of the city of Zion and rejoice in your salvation.

The nations shall sink into the pit of their making and in the snare which they set will their own foot be taken.

The Lord makes himself known by his acts of justice; the wicked are snared in the works of their own hands.

They shall return to the land of darkness, all the nations that forget God.

For the needy shall not always be forgotten and the hope of the poor shall not perish for ever.

Arise, O Lord, and let not mortals have the upper hand; let the nations be judged before your face.

Put them in fear, O Lord, that the nations may know themselves to be but mortal.

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 James 3:17-18

The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. 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 5.1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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 Reflection from John Webb

'We will remember them'. What we remember and how we remember it is very personal and perhaps changes over the years with the passing of time. When Remembrance Sunday was first marked the mass slaughter of World War 1 would still have been fresh in people's minds. Many of those remembering would have been widows or orphans and the rest would have known someone who had been killed. Many tears would have been shed.

By the time I recollect going to Remembrance as a child at the town memorial the situation had changed. WW1 was a distant memory but WW2 was fresh in people's minds. Thankfully the mass slaughter of WW1 had been avoided but still many had died. There were many widows and some of my friends had never known what it was like to have the love of a father. Again many tears were shed.

Now the situation has changed yet again. WW2 is now a distant memory and thankfully long lists of casualties are a thing of the past, but there will be those who have lost friends or relatives in Northern Ireland, the Falklands, Iraq, Afghanistan and other wars. For them it is devastating, but for most people it isn't personal or painful. Remembrance is not so much about remembering the dead, but of thanksgiving that through their sacrifice we enjoy the peace and freedom and a determination to maintain it. A negative looking back is replaced by a positive looking forward.

It is important to realise that this is also true of the Gospel narrative. I'm always surprised how little stress is put on the unbearable horrors of the crucifixion. The gospel writers keep the horrors of event to a minimum, we are not told endlessly of the pain and suffering of Jesus, they limit themselves to a brief factual account without elaboration. This is also true of artistic representations. Very seldom are we confronted by the sheer horror of crucifixion. Many of the stained-glass windows of the crucifixion in our churches show Christ looking strangely at ease, while others go further and show him robed in glory reigning from the cross. The New Testament is devoted to the love and teaching of Jesus and his triumph over evil, not on the pain and suffering he undoubtedly endured.

The same seems to be true of our observation of Remembrance. Yes, for the two minutes silence we allow ourselves to remember the terrible suffering and shed our tears. But for the rest of the 'Remembrance Season' which now seems to run from mid-October to mid-November our focus is on the vibrant colour of the poppy that optimistic emblem of hope for the future even in the devastation of the battlefields of WW1.

As we remember to-day may we acknowledge the achievement of those who died. Their sacrifice brought us the peace and freedom we enjoy and we should pledge ourselves to maintain it even while two terrible wars raging in Europe and the Middle East challenge the complacency we may have allowed ourselves and remind us to be alert to the forces of evil wherever they may manifest themselves.

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*

Let us pray

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.

Heavenly Father, on this Remembrance Sunday we give thanks for the wonder of creation, for the gift of life and the blessings of friendship; for Christ through whom we are shown the perfect way of life and service; and for the Holy Spirit who gives us his gifts. *We give you thanks and praise.*

For our nation and those who have used your gifts to strengthen and enrich us.
We give you thanks and praise.

For our King; for his care for all his people, and for his concern for them at all times and in all places.
We give you thanks and praise.

For the peoples of the world and their leaders and governments; for those called to lead them through the crises of our times, and through racial, social and religious tensions. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

We pray especially at this time for peace between Russia and Ukraine, Israel and Palestine.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who suffer as a result of war or civil strife, for the maimed in mind and body; for those denied their place in family life and friendship. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For your Church's ministry of the Gospel, proclaiming your message of love and peace.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the hungry, homeless and refugees. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For our homes, families, friends and neighbours. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the sick, suffering and dying and those who care for them. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Almighty God, who called your Church to witness that you were in Christ reconciling us to yourself; help us to proclaim the good news that all who hear may be reconciled to you and each other, through Christ our Lord.

Amen

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: O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know. Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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.