

Our Sunday Service Together  
June 9<sup>th</sup> 2024  
2<sup>nd</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 Psalm 130

Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice;  
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss, O Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you, so that you shall be feared.

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope.

My soul waits for the Lord, more than the night watch for the morning, more than the night watch for the morning.

O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy;

With him is plenteous redemption and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

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 Genesis 3.8-15

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' <sup>10</sup> He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' <sup>11</sup> He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' <sup>12</sup> The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' <sup>13</sup> Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' <sup>14</sup> The Lord God said to the serpent,

'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'

*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 Mark 3.2035

Then he (Jesus) went home; <sup>20</sup> and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. <sup>21</sup> When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.' <sup>22</sup> And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, 'He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.' <sup>23</sup> And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? <sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup> And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. <sup>26</sup> And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. <sup>27</sup> But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

<sup>28</sup> 'Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; <sup>29</sup> but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin'— <sup>30</sup> for they had said, 'He has an unclean spirit.'

<sup>31</sup> Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. <sup>32</sup> A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters<sup>[c]</sup> are outside, asking for you.' <sup>33</sup> And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' <sup>34</sup> And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>35</sup> Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'

*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

'Fact Checking' is the watch word of the moment. Be it in relation to international affairs, especially where Russia is concerned, or national matters during an election campaign, the true fact matter.

St Paul reminds us of the hidden agendas, the unseen forces that sway human thinking, personal or corporately. He calls these 'principalities and powers at work in the world', today we might call them 'spin', advertisers, 'social influencers' or even AI (artificial intelligence). In the Garden of Eden, a hidden persuasive force is at work, tempting, leading humanity away from God's purposes; with one bite all seems to come tumbling down.

During Jesus' ministry whatever forces were at work they have become vocalised in the work of the Pharisees and Herodians that opposed his growing ministry and message. No one would accept Jesus' ministry if they thought he was a mad man, more so if they could be persuaded the force behind his actions was the devil itself; the one since Eden always leading God's people in the wrong direction. The stories, the spin they told, seem to have worked, for we see even his mother and brothers are worried and concerned and have come to draw him back from the work he is focussed on.

Whichever is the reality, Jesus says there should be rejoicing. If he is operating in the 'power of Beelzebul' then it is good news for this would mean warfare amongst the ranks of the enemies of God and His people. This would result in their destruction and the liberation of humanity – good news! If he instead is of God and his works reveal the power of God victorious over the enemies of God, then again this is good news. For God is on the march, the longed for deliverance of God's people is at hand – good news!

As those who dwell on the other side of the events of Easter we know that it is the latter, Jesus is God's agent of redemption, as the Christ he is the deliverer of the universe from the powers of sin and death – Good News!

The words of Jesus to the crowd, seemingly rejecting his familial ties, seem harsh and we have an empathy for them all; especially Mary. But I wonder if Mary felt rejected or again caught a glimpse of the promises declared to her about the child she bore. The promise that he would redeem all of Israel, that through him all would be, at last, the family of Abraham, descendants too numerous to count, yet having one familial heritage. And more, I wonder if Mary glimpsed that all who would undertake the will of God, be they Jew or Gentile, would be the

promised people, the family of God. It is all too easy to define peoples by labels, be those names, colour, or nationalities. Jesus suggests there is only one trait that reveals familial identity, actively undertaking the will of God. The key is whether there is a familial resemblance to brother Jesus, living as he does in the loving purposes of God - bringing justice, mercy, healing, peace and reconciliation to the world. These are the 'facts' we should be looking for, checking up on.

## 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*

God of light and power, we rejoice in your light, we live in your power, we look for your glory.

Strengthen our bishop Michael and all who seek to serve you in this diocese. May they be filled with the Spirit and serve you as the first disciples. We give thanks for all those who have spread the good news throughout the ages. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We Pray for our all running for service in public office at this time of general election. May they hear you call to seek justice, peace and reconciliation and be able to serve with humility and compassion.  
*Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

At this time of remembering Generation '44 and the huge battles that raged across Europe and the far East seeking to bring an end to tyranny, we pray for all the victims of war, injustice and abuse that they may find peace and reconciliation. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We pray for the leaders of our industries and trades unions that they may work together for the good of all.  
*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. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

May the joy of your presence, visions of your glory and the hope of your kingdom close at hand, strengthen us and give us your peace.

*Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

## The Collect

All: Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.  
Grant this for your only Son 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