

Our Sunday Service Together

June 16th 2024

3rd 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 92.1-4 and 12 to 14

It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord and to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
To tell of your love early in the morning and of your faithfulness in the night-time,
Upon the ten-stringed instrument, upon the harp, and to the melody of the lyre.
For you, Lord, have made me glad by your acts, and I sing aloud at the works of your hands.
The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.
Such as are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.
They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be vigorous and in full leaf;
That they may show that the Lord is true; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.
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 Ezekiel 17.22 to end

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out.
I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty
mountain. ²³ On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind. ²⁴ All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord. I bring low the high
tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish.
I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

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 4.26-34

He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷ and would sleep and
rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸ The earth produces of itself,
first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in
with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

³⁰ He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹ It is like a
mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³² yet when it is

sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

What do you look for in a King, and what type of kingdom are the to be king of? This had been a question for Israel over many centuries.

Almost from the first time the people asked for a King their concept and ideas had been at odds with God's idea. Kings were fine, tall, commanding, wise, dedicated to God and ever able to deliver the nation from their enemies. They were strong and true like the great cedars of Lebanon; standing tall for everyone to admire, protective to all who would seek their shelter.

When the people looked to God for a king their hopes would have been for a tall cedar, a pin-up monarch able to outshine any other nation's king on the regal catwalk. But God gave them David – the least, the insignificant, some might have said the runt of the litter from the smallest tribe of the nation. What!

But David was God's preferred leader, humble and devoted to trying to do the right thing in God's eyes. Centuries later David was the still God's archetype. It would not be through a Caesar like leader God would deliver the nation, but someone descending from King David, someone home grown after God's own heart; how else could they direct the rule of God? How else would they bring to fruition what is at the heart of God's kingdom rule– love, justice, mercy grace and peace?

Even in Jesus day the people seem to be looking for the wrong kingdom, for a leader not of God's own heart to deliver them from what oppressed them. Jesus' parables are filled with irony – whilst the people look for a majestic, Lebanese cedar like king to deliver them and provide shelter from the heat of the day, such shelter in Israel is already to be seen all around in the ugly and sprawling bush, grown from the smallest and most insignificant of seeds, the mustard bush. Jesus is challenging his people to open their eyes and look with God's perspective and see his provision, already made.

Outward appearances have never been God's preferences when it comes to providing leadership that is life affirming for his people. The challenge for God's people has always been to see the world about them, the needs and the solutions for those needs, with the eyes of God, with hearts after God's own. God's priorities are so often at odds with those of a vain world. Christ demonstrates God's perspective; love, peace, grace, mercy and justice for the world.

At any time of general election, the 'art of spin' goes into full overdrive seeking to remind us of the type of leadership we want, and more so the type of nation we should be. When we look to the candidates before us, with whose eyes do we look? When we hear manifestos are we listening out for justice, mercy, grace, peace and love in them. At this time are we praying more than ever 'your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven' and do we really mean it?

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*

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ let us pray to the Father.

We pray for Bishop Michael and all those who seek to serve you in this diocese. Especially all approaching ordination at the end of June. May they be filled with the Spirit and speak with authority.
Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Especially we pray for the general Election. We pray for women and men of integrity to be selected, and to stand, across the political divides. We pray protection for them and perseverance amid the pressures of social media and the weight of scrutiny. May we see a change in the landscape – more examples of character over charisma, humility over hubris, sacrifice over selfishness. May your Kingdom come, and will be done in our lives and across this nation to bring justice, peace, love and truth. *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 those who suffer as a result of war and for those who work to relieve their suffering.
Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

We pray for the sick, suffering, dying and those who mourn and we give thanks and pray for those who care for them. *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. Amen.

The Collect

All: Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father:
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,
that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; 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.**

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