

Our Sunday Service Together

July 14th 2024

7th 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 24

The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it, the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.

For he has founded it upon the seas and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.

'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord, or who can rise up in his holy place?'

'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, who have not lifted up their soul to an idol, nor sworn an oath to a lie;

'They shall receive a blessing from the Lord, a just reward from the God of their salvation.'

Such is the company of those who seek him, of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

'Who is the King of glory?'

'The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord who is mighty in battle.'

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

'Who is this King of glory?'

'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.'

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 2 Samuel 6.1-5, 12b-19

David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. ² David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. ³ They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart ⁴ with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark. ⁵ David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing; ¹³ and when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. ¹⁴ David danced before the Lord with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. ¹⁵ So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet. ¹⁶ As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.

¹⁷ They brought in the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt-offerings and offerings of well-being before the Lord. ¹⁸ When David had finished offering the burnt-offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts, ¹⁹ and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

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 6.14-29

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, 'John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.' ¹⁵ But others said, 'It is Elijah.' And others said, 'It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.' ¹⁶ But when Herod heard of it, he said, 'John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.'

¹⁷ For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸ For John had been telling Herod, 'It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.' ¹⁹ And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰ for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹ But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²² When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, 'Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.' ²³ And he solemnly swore to her, 'Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.' ²⁴ She went out and said to her mother, 'What should I ask for?' She replied, 'The head of John the baptizer.' ²⁵ Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, 'I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.' ²⁶ The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷ Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸ brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹ When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

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

The heart of the nation was, frankly, rotten to the core; but there was once such hope!

King David is establishing a united Israel following Saul and Jonathon's deaths. This will involve a national capital with a home for the presence of God, a temple palace, to which all might come in thanksgiving and worship. The Ark of the covenant and presence of God journeys from dwelling to house until it comes to rest in the City of David, Jerusalem. King David himself joins the worship as it makes its final journey, praising God with total abandonment much to the disgust of his wife, the daughter of ex-king Saul. Some commentators suggest this moment of disgust at David's complete worship and celebration of God is the start of a divide that would, in the future see David wander, both in marital terms, and in his exercise of leadership and power under as Israel's King (actually, he had no excuse for anything to do with Bathsheba). The rot began just as the hoped for future with God came to Jerusalem!

As an anointed prophet, John the Baptist had come and exposed just how rotten the leadership in Israel was. Herod Antipas ruled over Galilee with Rome's permission. He was the son of Herod the Great and had married

Herodias, granddaughter of Herod the Great and wife of Antipas's half-brother. They are supposed to have fallen for each other when Antipas visited his brother in Rome; Herodias was not divorced, yet Antipas married her. Some would say, what a mess and maybe laugh it off, John the Baptist called it what it was – rotten to the core.

John the Baptist was, of course, simply the messenger of God. Jesus, by contrast is the walking, talking, living breathing presence of God which would be another matter altogether. However, Herod's response to the messenger and to the Son of God was similar, be rid of them both through execution. It is understandable when Jesus later stands before Herod Antipas that there is fear; is this John come back to life? Phew no it isn't, so we can deal with Jesus and be rid of him to. We are not told, might wonder what Herod's reaction was to hearing 'Jesus is alive' running on the lips of the people following the resurrection.

The hope had been that the temple, with the Arc of the Covenant and sacrifices for sin, would be enough in Israel, but no – and the rot was set in. It is all rotten, but rather than sweep everything away in a flood, rather than bring fire and brimstone, God offers grace and love to all in Christ Jesus. God offers himself as the one oblation and satisfaction, offered once for all time and makes a way forward, established a new covenant. A way for each and all to know the presence of God, not in a temple building, not in a national memorial, but in the heart of things – in the heart of each and all who will welcome and rejoice in God's presence as David did – with heart, mind, soul and strength.

Jesus prays for all will come to this way, "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (John 17.20-22)

Here is hope personified! Here is the way of Christ, not that the presence of God is within a stone box, or a temple, or a city in a land, but within the heart and mind of each of his disciples. St Patrick's prayer has given many a follower inspiration to pray every day as we seek to walk in the way of Christ, with his presence within our hearts through His Spirit:

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.

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

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.

We Pray for Our King, new Prime Minister and government, and all World leaders, that they may have the Spirit of wisdom and seek your peace for the world. May they always use their power for the good of the people, and avoid the temptation to personal gain.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We pray for the victims of oppression, discrimination, and bullying. And we pray for the work of the United Nations and NATO in their efforts to create and maintain world peace.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We pray for the hungry and starving, that the available food may be used for the benefit 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.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints, we commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love. Amen.

The Collect

All: Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; 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