

Our Sunday Service Together

July 21st 2024

8th 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 89.20-37

'I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him.

'My hand shall hold him fast and my arm shall strengthen him.

'No enemy shall deceive him, nor any wicked person afflict him.

'I will strike down his foes before his face and beat down those that hate him.

'My truth also and my steadfast love shall be with him, and in my name shall his head be exalted.

'I will set his dominion upon the sea and his right hand upon the rivers.

'He shall call to me, "You are my Father, my God, and the rock of my salvation;"

'And I will make him my firstborn, the most high above the kings of the earth.

'The love I have pledged to him will I keep for ever, and my covenant will stand fast with him.

'His seed also will I make to endure for ever and his throne as the days of heaven.

'But if his children forsake my law and cease to walk in my judgements,

'If they break my statutes and do not keep my commandments,

'I will punish their offences with a rod and their sin with scourges.

'But I will not take from him my steadfast love nor suffer my truth to fail.

'My covenant will I not break nor alter what has gone out of my lips.

'Once for all have I sworn by my holiness that I will not prove false to David.

'His seed shall endure for ever and his throne as the sun before me;

'It shall stand fast for ever as the moon, the enduring witness in the heavens.'

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 2 Samuel 7.1-14a

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' ³Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.'

⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as

formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. ¹⁴ I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings.

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.

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 6.30-34 and 53-56

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹ He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³² And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³ Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴ As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. ⁵⁴ When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, ⁵⁵ and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶ And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the market-places, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

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

King David has grand designs! His plan is simple, build an amazing house within which God might be present, to which the people can come and worship. The generations that have built our cathedrals and churches would understand David's desire. I suspect we too can, a little bit; we want to give our best, worship with heart and mind and soul and strength.

Like anyone with great designs and ideas for a building David submits them to the planning authority, and receives a reply which maybe went something like this:

“I thank you for the plans you have submitted and note how much they come with good intentions. However, I have to turn your plans down because we have alternate plans and will look to another to bring them to reality, your descendant will complete the building work’. David must have been crest fallen.

However, the response from the planners is not all negative, it offers hope to David and an interesting suggestion; that the planning authority will ensure the building David’s descendant is successful – it is as if they offer not just their plans but also the means of construction. The temple is the planner’s project, their design, which will be completed with the active assistance of David’s descendant.

Many centuries later Jesus refers to the temple building project as he walks the courts of the stone temple edifice built and rebuilt by successive ‘kings’. In wonderful planning inspector style, he takes a look and passes a judgement – you have built this incorrectly and used the wrong materials; these stones won’t last just as they have not previously; they will tumble.

But God’s building plans will be brought to fruition, and it will be both glorious and eternal. Jesus’ points the way to build a temple for God, you use that which already bears the glory of God, humanity itself. These are not perfectly cut and honed building blocks, but they do bear the same basic feature, a heart open to God. They are all sorts, from everywhere - great and small, weak and well, with different abilities and talents; male, female, Greek, Jew, slave, free.

It is all too easy, in every generation to try and dictate how God should build and what materials God should use or reject – it is no wonder the authorities of Jesus age reject the most important stone of the entire build, Jesus himself; he is not up to the standards they would employ! Yet God welcomes all ready to offer who they are and what they have or can do.

In reading the gospel today it would be easy to begin to define what makes a good ‘stone’ for God’s temple project in Christ; to say what is acceptable for God’s project. Whilst we read of Jesus healing some and not others we can begin to set a standard for what is ‘normal’ or ‘healthy’, broken or whole and through that say what is acceptable – all over again we start to tell God what he is to use and how he must build things. The reality is we would do well to remember God welcomes all with the right heart and is able to build each and every one into his temple project in Christ.

We are reminded this is God’s ‘grand design’ made possible by the corner stone who welcomes every heart and will incorporate each and every one that they may be part of His dwelling place.

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 May they be filled with the Spirit and speak with authority. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for world leaders as they seek justice and peace for all people. Especially we pray for the leaders of Ukraine and Russia that a just solution may be found for their dispute, and for the peoples of Ukraine and Russia that they may become good neighbours once more to each other. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for our King, new Prime Minister and members of parliament that they may have the Wisdom of Solomon. *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, 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 Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, 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