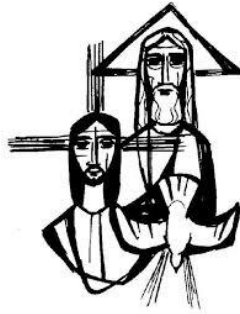


Our Sunday Service Together

August 4th 2024

10th 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 51.1-12

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 11.26 through 12.13a

When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. ²⁷When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son.

But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord, and the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, 'There were two men in a certain city, one rich and the other poor. ²The rich man had very many flocks and herds; ³but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meagre fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. ⁴Now there came a traveller to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him.' ⁵Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, 'As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; ⁶he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.'

⁷Nathan said to David, 'You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; ⁸I gave you your master's house, and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. ⁹Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. ¹¹Thus says the Lord: I will raise up trouble against you from within your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbour, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this very sun. ¹²For you did it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.' ¹³David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the Lord.'

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 John 6.24-35

So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' ²⁶ Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' ²⁸ Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' ²⁹ Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' ³⁰ So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?' ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat." ³² Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' ³⁴ They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'

³⁵ Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

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

One of the authorised introductions to confession, taken from Paul's words to the Corinthians says "When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart" – this both a fearful and grace filled thing.

What, you may be asking, was David up to? It was bad enough that he had committed adultery with Bathsheba, but then to try and hide things by first getting her husband back from the war in the hope he would sleep with her and the pregnancy not be thought other than Uriah's child. When this plan fails, David seeks to hide his sin by having Uriah killed in battle; everyone will see it as unfortunate and besides he was a foreigner, so what does that matter? God see everything and knows the purposes of David's heart.

Nathan the prophet attends and tells a story to David and he falls straight into the trap and knows he has been seen; his sin has not been just against Uriah but also, more so, God. Uriah trusted David implicitly; he takes his own death warrant to Joab, never thinking to look. God also had trusted David who now shows he has the capacity to be a man 'not after the heart of God'! How far the mighty can fall!

God is true in heart and forgives David, although things do not seem to have been forgotten in Israel. In Matthew's gospel, when we read the genealogy of Jesus, we see Bathsheba mentioned and her surviving son Solomon, however Bathsheba is called the wife of Uriah, not David. God, who sees the purposes of the heart ensures that the wronged one, the foreigner, the faithful one, who was arguably more righteous than David, has a place amongst the people of God, a place within the kingdom of David's son.

I wonder who else might we find within this kingdom of David's son, the kingdom of Christ Jesus, that, on the surface, would look excluded as a foreigner, beyond our sensibilities of a faithful one? But God it seems looks with a different set of eyes to us and he welcomes both David and Uriah!

Jesus forever challenges how the matters of God are seen, perceived by those looking on. This he does in John's passage today.

The people are looking for nourishment and find it in Jesus' actions, in the great miracle feast of the loaves and fishes. His challenge is for folks to look beyond the bread they have eaten to the living bread that they really yearn for. Between the Old and New Testament periods it had become accepted theology that the manna of the wilderness was God's wisdom, the word of life and fulfilment of the law, renewed amongst the people each day. But now there is something more at hand, if people would look with the eyes of their hearts they would see before them 'the living bread' of God eternal provision.

One scholar described Jesus as the 'gift he brings'. Here is the purpose of the heart of God! That all might come to Jesus and never hunger or thirst, for the bread that comes from heaven, giving life to the world, will never be lost, it needs no renewing each day. The purpose of the heart of God is revealed, that all who come to Christ, be they Jew, Greek, slave, free, male or female, friend or foreigner will never be lost to God and are welcomed into his eternal kingdom!

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*

Lord, in the storms of life bid us come to you. When we are in danger of being overwhelmed, increase our faith; *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray for areas where your church is struggling or being overwhelmed, for pastors and lay workers facing danger or tempest at this time. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray for the areas of our world overcome by natural disaster, hurricanes, floods, lack of rain; for all swamped by poverty and hunger, for all battered by waves after wave of oppression and violence. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We give thanks for all who have supported us in times of trouble and distress. We pray for friends in need at this time, may we be a strength to them. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray for those who are depressed, fearful, weary or despairing. For the sick in body and mind we know and name before you now. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We remember those who reach out with a helping hand, for carers, social workers, hospital staff, good neighbours and food banks and we give thanks for them. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We give thanks for those who are beyond the storms of this world and have come to rest with you in eternity. May we come in faith to be with you and them in life eternal. *Merciful Father, accept these and all our prayers for the sake of your son, our saviour Jesus Christ, Amen*

The Collect

All: Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; 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