

# Our Sunday Service Together

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024

17<sup>th</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 Psalm 54

Save me, O God, by your name and vindicate me by your power.

Hear my prayer, O God; give heed to the words of my mouth.

For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless seek after my life; they have not set God before them.

Behold, God is my helper; it is the Lord who upholds my life.

May evil rebound on those who lie in wait for me; destroy them in your faithfulness.

An offering of a free heart will I give you and praise your name, O Lord, for it is gracious.

For he has delivered me out of all my trouble, and my eye has seen the downfall of my enemies.

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 Jeremiah 11.18-20

It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew;  
then you showed me their evil deeds.

<sup>19</sup> But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying,

'Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,

let us cut him off from the land of the living,

so that his name will no longer be remembered!'

<sup>20</sup> But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously,

who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them,

for to you I have committed my cause.

*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 9.30-37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup> for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' <sup>32</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup> Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' <sup>34</sup> But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' <sup>36</sup> Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

*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

Last week the question was posed in Mark's Gospel, 'who do the people say that I am'? One of the answers given was 'Elijah the prophet'. Were they really saying he was Elijah come back to life or re-incarnated, I suspect not! What they were most likely saying was Jesus is acting, speaking and living like the greatest of our prophets (Islam today hold that Jesus was a great prophet and little else).

Peter, however declares Jesus is the Messiah of God and therefore something very much more than a prophet, very much more than the figure of Moses (the law bringer; God is the Law giver) also mentioned as in the previous verses in Mark. Jesus is more than the law bringer, much more than the prophets – as Messiah he will fulfil all the law and the prophets; he completes their works as he brings everyone into a new reality; the way of the Messiah.

The prophets had an interesting time of things, often a costly and pain filled ministry – Jeremiah's was especially so! He ministered in the time running up to the first destruction of Jerusalem and his words were filled with judgment and lament. In the reading we have to day Jeremiah is filled with lament for Jerusalem and, in true prophetic style he begins to suggest the option for God now is judgement. Here is the difference between the prophet and God's Messiah, as Jesus laments he refuses judgement.

More so, rather than call for judgement through which Israel, the lamb facing slaughter, would be delivered from her enemies, Jesus talks of the need for God's Messiah to become like a lamb and to be 'slaughtered', to be offered as a sacrifice for sin, to suffer, die and to then rise once more. Rather than call down fire and judgement and see deliverance, Jesus instead prays from the cross 'Father, forgive them; they know not what they are doing'.

Prophet and Messiah are both faithful in their calling; they live out the message they bring. For the prophet this is lament and a cry for judgement, for the Messiah it is lament for sin and separation from the love of God and a cry for forgiveness – Jesus is indeed very much more, very much greater than the prophets!

Jesus then embodies, not judgement but the love and forgiveness of God and challenges his followers to act in the same manner in life. The disciples' argument over who is the greatest is in its simplest form them seeking to set in place a level of judgement, a 'bar' for acceptance. Jesus turns to someone society judged to have no status and few rights and says, 'if you want a bench mark for how God looks upon the world and considers things, here you are'. God welcomes those in society below any measure of what it is to be acceptable, lovable, valued, of greatness – and so it is for his followers!

## 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 our Father, your kingdom embraces the whole of creation. Guide your church throughout the world to assist in your harvest and speak your truth into areas of doubt. We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith, and for Open Doors and all Christian charities, who take risks to bring your word into places of violence and oppression.

*Lord of faith and trust, help us to trust in you.*

Lord, you search the secret motives of our leaders to reveal hypocrisy and virtue. Pour out your spirit of integrity on all world leaders. Grant us all the wisdom to discern your voice and the courage to follow your will.

*Lord of faith and trust, help us to trust in you.*

Lord, you see fully into our hearts and know what we can become. We pray for those who affirm and encourage others, especially teachers and those who care for young and vulnerable people.

*Lord of faith and trust, help us to trust in you.*

Lord, you know our needs and concerns before we ask. Hear us as we bring before you all who are sick or in special need...

Bless them and fill them with your healing strength.

*Lord of faith and trust, help us to trust in you.*

Lord, there is no darkness that can extinguish your eternal light.

In this faith we entrust to you all who have died...

Raise us with them to your eternal kingdom.

*Lord of faith and trust, help us to trust in you.*

## The Collect

All: Almighty God, you have made us for yourself,  
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:  
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,  
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city  
where we shall see you face to face;  
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