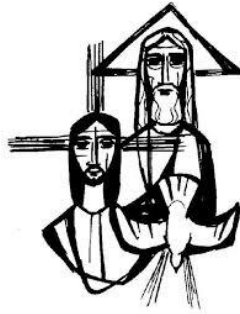


# Our Sunday Service Together

29<sup>th</sup> September 2024

18<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 Psalmody Psalm 19.1-7

The heavens are telling the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

One day pours out its song to another and one night unfolds knowledge to another.

They have neither speech nor language and their voices are not heard,

Yet their sound has gone out into all lands and their words to the ends of the world.

In them has he set a tabernacle for the sun, that comes forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber and rejoices as a champion to run his course.

It goes forth from the end of the heavens and runs to the very end again, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

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 Numbers 11.4-6, 10- 16 and 24-29

The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, 'If only we had meat to eat! <sup>5</sup>We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; <sup>6</sup>but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.'

Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. <sup>11</sup>So Moses said to the Lord, 'Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favour in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? <sup>12</sup>Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, "Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors"? <sup>13</sup>Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, "Give us meat to eat!" <sup>14</sup>I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. <sup>15</sup>If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favour in your sight—and do not let me see my misery.'

<sup>16</sup>So the Lord said to Moses, 'Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. <sup>25</sup>Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

<sup>26</sup>Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. <sup>27</sup>And a young man ran and told Moses, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' <sup>28</sup>And Joshua

son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, 'My lord Moses, stop them!' <sup>29</sup> But Moses said to him, 'Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!'

*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 9.38 to end

John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' <sup>39</sup> But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup> Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup> For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

<sup>42</sup> 'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup> If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup> And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup> And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup> where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. <sup>49</sup> 'For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup> Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

*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 rabble is gathered and the moaning begins; if only we could have yesterday, meat to eat instead of this, well this manna! Change is never easy, even when the change is God given, and people always hark for yesterday, when everything worked and all was wonderful. Was it, really?

Up to this point Moses, with his apprentice Joshua, seem to have been able to enable the people of God to, well, get on with being the people of God; clearly now a different pattern for being the people of God is required. Moses is a good leader, a bit of a whinger maybe, certainly always questioning his calling to lead the people (which may have been a good thing, when you possess a staff like his and have experience of its power; you could easily become a tyrant); Moses takes the matter to God and listens. After listening, he does as God instructs and selects others to share in the ministry of leadership. God, for want of a better word, 'anoints' these folks with a share of the spirit's anointing placed by God on Moses.

However, it appears things are not as neat and tidy as the 'in crowd', the seventy, would have liked – there are two folks back at camp who clearly have some anointing. Joshua does not like this at all (he is a good military commander and likes order). Moses' reaction must have frustrated Joshua, for rather than condemn the men he looks ahead to a day when all God's people will be anointed for ministry. He looks to Pentecost, when everyone will be anointed by the same Spirit and be part of a people called to offer their abilities so that the people can, well, get on with being the people of God they have been called to be.

Whilst not described as a rabble, the apostles have been moaning for a while already as we get to our place in Mark's gospel today. We have had the arguments over who would be Jesus' representative, his ambassador after he was arrested and killed (I am not sure they understood at that point his talk of rising again). Jesus' response was to set the bar really low! It isn't the educated, the strong, the able, it is the least of all in society that meets his criteria, and if that is the case then every follower of Jesus is his representative.

Today the arguments continue, but now, with echoes of the incident with Moses and Joshua over the ministry of Eldad and Medad. Someone is casting out demons using Jesus' name and they are not part of the 'in group'. The apostles need to see the bigger picture of the Kingdom Jesus is bringing into being. God's ministry will not be about a select few chosen ones, God's ministry will be expected of all His people, for all receive the same Spirit through baptism and are therefore anointed for their calling. The apostles need to grasp this quickly or they will end up, not furthering the mission of Jesus, but becoming stumbling blocks to it; and the best place for one of those is the bottom of the sea.

Jesus illustrates that His calling is for all with the simplest of examples. His kingdom will not be brought in through the ministry of a few especially chosen people, through those of certain status, rank, or wealth, but by those who are able to give someone a cup of water to drink. Everyone knows how to offer a glass of water to someone, it isn't rocket science! The disciples of Christ, anointed by the Spirit at baptism are each and every one called – no degree is required for this isn't rocket science!

You may wonder if we have become a church dependent on a select few? Might it be a stumbling block was placed at some point before the 'little ones' which said only some can minister the grace and love of God in Christ Jesus?

Maybe it is time for His people, His body, His church to discover again the calling of Jesus to be the least and through that discover true greatness. Maybe it is also time to rediscover the kingdom comes through the ministry of all, in the simplest of ways. Or we could look back to the good old days when everything seemed to be good. The reality is God forever leads his people on and whilst there may not be meat there is bread from heaven to sustain all on the journey.

## 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*

Father, may we show your love and your salvation in our lives, that the church may order its priorities with those of your Kingdom revealed in Christ, that it may grow in holiness and in outreach.

*Spirit of God, guide us and strengthen us.*

We pray for all who hunger for goodness and righteousness, for all who serve you by serving others. We pray for world leaders, for all who influence our future, for those who work in the press or broadcasting, for artists, musicians and writers, for those who seek to care for and improve the environment.

*Spirit of God, guide us and strengthen us.*

May your church set an example by the way we live. We seek forgiveness for past transgressions, for the support of fallen and corrupt government systems, rather than offering challenge to the. For times when your church has enabled abuse, racism, inequality or violence within the world. We pray for healing, for redemption and for good relationships and honest dealing.

*Spirit of God, guide us and strengthen us.*

We pray for all who are weak, for the weak willed and weak minded, for all led into crime or vice. We give thanks for and pray for those working for the rehabilitation of addicts or criminals.

*Spirit of God, guide us and strengthen us.*

We remember those who are anxious at this time for their work, their health, their homes or communities. We pray for those depressed or despairing, for all who have lost vision or hope. For the sick, for those facing tests or operations. We also pray for all who minister to the sick, the elderly and those in care.

*Spirit of God, guide us and strengthen us.*

We entrust to your power our friends and loved ones in this world, and those who have departed from our sight. We pray that we may all at the last share in the joy and peace of your kingdom.

*Spirit of God, guide us and strengthen us.*

Amen.

## The Collect

All: Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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