

Our Sunday Service Together

13th October 2024

20th Sunday after Trinity



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 Psalm 90.12 -17

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Turn again, O Lord; how long will you delay?

Have compassion on your servants.

Satisfy us with your loving-kindness in the morning, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Give us gladness for the days you have afflicted us, and for the years in which we have seen adversity.

Show your servants your works, and let your glory be over their children.

May the gracious favour of the Lord our God be upon us;

prosper our handiwork; O prosper the work of our hands.

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 Amos 5.6-7 and 10-15

Seek the Lord and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.

⁷ Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground!

They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

¹¹ Therefore, because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain,

you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them;

you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine.

¹² For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins—

you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate.

¹³ Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time.

¹⁴ Seek good and not evil, that you may live;

and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said.

¹⁵ Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate;

it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

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 10.17-31

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' ¹⁸ Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother."'" ²⁰ He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' ²¹ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' ²² When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. ²³ Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' ²⁴ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' ²⁶ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.'

²⁸ Peter began to say to him, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you.' ²⁹ Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

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

Patience, love and understanding jump out from our account in Mark today. Jesus looks at the young man before him and loves him! He sits, once again with his disciples and enters into conversation with the utmost patience! All is from a place of understanding their lives, their hopes and fears, joys and worries; Jesus is an empathetic messiah!

What of our young rich man, we are never told what happened after he left; however, there has been much speculation over the centuries. As we watch the interaction between Jesus and this man we do need to note that the young man is not concerned about heaven, his is a concern for the moment. His thinking is not on vertical planes of existence, his is a question of how he might have a full and complete life with God in the here and now; this is a horizontal matter. The man must have seen something in Jesus, heard in his words talk of the 'coming kingdom of God (eternal and age have the same root word in Greek). Jesus underscores this sense later in his conversation with the disciples; Jesus is to usher in, and is already showing the signs of, the coming kingdom. It is easy to practice our faith thinking of life here and now on earth but our goal is a heavenly existence in 'forever time'. However, we miss the point of the reality, the kingdom Jesus brings to being through his death and resurrection – this is 'your kingdom come and will be accomplished on earth as in heaven. The faith he offers, the following he calls is into God's presence with us in the age, and the age to come; it is what Psalm 23 talks of, the presence of God with us in all of life, to guide, comfort and to take away our fears.

The young man asks what else he should do to gain a full life with God, to live within the kingdom coming Jesus is talking of, there and then. Jesus is not about being rid of the Law, the Torah, and here he compliments the young man on his adherence to the code. Jesus is to fulfil the Law; he is to make the way of restoration available for everyone – if they will follow him.

I wonder, do we notice in Jesus' conversation on the laws the commands not mentioned? There is no mention of Sabbath day, no mention of 'no gods before YHWH', no talk of graven images, and nothing about

taking the name of YHWH in vain. These are the foundation 'commands' Moses brought to the people yet Jesus makes no mention of them and instead places some world shattering directions in their place – 'sell up, give away, follow me'.

We remember that the law was intended to shape the people's lives with God and each other. It isn't that taking a day off is the heart of Sabbath, but a life defined by entering into the rest – the peaceful presence, the life restorative nature of God. It isn't that taking the name of YHWH in vain is the goal of the law, it is to live a life that brings glory to God, a life such that no-one will have to swear because of our actions. It isn't saying I worship the one true God; it is living as one who worships God. I wonder if Jesus' challenges to the young man highlight that his wealth and property might just be the gods in his life which have gotten in the way of fully focussed worship of YHWH.

Jesus does not push the law to one side, he gives thought for the young man on fulfilling the commandments. Is it any surprise there is a sense of panic in Peter's voice "I have done all these things and followed you Jesus – haven't I?" In his response you sense how Jesus knows Peter and simply 'loves him'.

Jesus' call is to follow him, which means all looking for all the things that get in the way, in the way of us entering into the fullness of the blessing, the fullness of the coming age - the eye of the needle is indeed narrow and much baggage has to be taken off for any to get through! This invitation to follow, to reflect, comes with utmost patience, love and understanding, however, as with any invitation we need to take it up, and that might include an amount of selling up, giving away and actively following!

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 of Lords, King of Kings, so move the hearts and minds of the leaders of nations that we would see mercy, grace, provision for all in need and peace. We pray for your peace in Ukraine, Syria, Sudan, in Gaza, Lebanon and Israel. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.*

Gracious God, we pray for your church throughout the world, that your way may be known upon earth, and your saving power among all nations. We pray for all church leaders and all those who are seeking new ways to live and tell the story of Jesus in changing times. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.*

God of compassion, the Canaanite woman's persistence led to Jesus's blessing. Challenge the boundaries we set to our charity and concern. Grant that we may all rejoice in your love and share it. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.*

God of hospitality, you set a place for everyone at your table. Open our hearts to embrace those who are easily excluded and despised. We pray for peace and unity among all people and across nations.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.

God of healing, at your word, the girl was released from her distress. Grant your healing love to all who are weighed down with sickness or anxiety. We pray especially for ... *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.*

God of hope, you bring life to all who call upon your name. Draw into your family all who have died and be with those who are bereaved....

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.

The Collect

All: God, the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:
by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life; 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