

Our Sunday Service Together

20th October 2024

21st 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 104.1-10

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!

You are clothed with majesty and honour, wrapped in light as in a garment.

You spread out the heavens like a curtain and lay the beams of your dwelling place in the waters above.

You make the clouds your chariot and ride on the wings of the wind.

You make the winds your messengers and flames of fire your servants.

You laid the foundations of the earth, that it never should move at any time.

You covered it with the deep like a garment; the waters stood high above the hills.

At your rebuke they fled; at the voice of your thunder they hastened away.

They rose up to the hills and flowed down to the valleys beneath, to the place which you had appointed for them.

You have set them their bounds that they should not pass, nor turn again to cover the earth.

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 Hebrews 5.1-10

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ²He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; ³and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. ⁴And one does not presume to take this honour, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

⁵So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

'You are my Son, today I have begotten you';

⁶as he says also in another place,

'You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.'

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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 10.35-45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' ³⁶ And he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' ³⁷ And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.' ³⁸ But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' ³⁹ They replied, 'We are able.' Then Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.'
⁴¹ When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. ⁴² So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ⁴³ But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

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

My mother used to say to me, often, 'ask a stupid question, get a silly answer' – John and James don't ask a stupid question, but a wrong question of Jesus.

Neither were there when God determined the plan for the salvation of the Cosmos, for the restoration of creation thrown out of kilter by the fall of Adam. Alas, they will not be there when the plan unfolds at the crucifixion and resurrection. They will be hiding in fear, unable (for the time being) to drink the cup or share in the baptism. Their squabbles with the other disciples simply keep the misunderstandings of God's purposes in circulation. Sometimes we need to stop, still ourselves, ponder and wonder about who this Jesus Christ is.

Maybe the upside down nature of the kingdom of God, the first will be last, the greatest is to be the servant of all, is something that makes our heads spin; I think it may have done for the disciples. This kingdom coming is upside down to the world we are born into. In the creation accounts we see Adam invited by God to ponder on the world coming into being, and from a place of wonder to give a name for what has become known. Jesus invites His disciples into a similar watching, pondering, wondering. To come to understand the full beauty of the horror of the cross would take time and reflection. Coming to comprehend fully the seemingly inexplicable resurrection of Christ meant the disciples had to sit and dwell with the reality of Jesus' calling that had unfolded before their eyes.

James and John would come to know the fullness of Jesus and drink of his cup. For each it came in their following, in the walking His way, in prayerful conversation, in dwelling in, and with the word of God. There are no short cuts, not trips to the McDonalds of faith, we all have to take the time to still ourselves before

Jesus, to ponder and allow wonder to surface!

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*

O God of peace, who has taught us that in quietness and confidence shall be our strength; help us, as we come into your presence, to be still and know that you are God.

We pray for Michael our bishop and all the clergy in this diocese. May they be filled with the Spirit and serve you as the first disciples. We give thanks for all those who have spread the good news throughout the ages. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We pray for our government and all those who exercise authority and power, that they may have the wisdom and courage necessary to guide the nations of the world through these difficult times. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We pray for the nations of the world, for Peace, for Justice and the reign of the kingdom of God in the one who came to serve, not to be served. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We pray for our young people that they may be protected from harmful influences and exploitation. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We give thanks 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 and dying and we give thanks and pray for those who use their skill to care for them. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen
And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and for evermore. Amen.

The Collect

All: Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; 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