

Our Sunday Service Together

27th October 2024

Last 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.

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter and our tongue with songs of joy.

Then said they among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.'

The Lord has indeed done great things for us, and therefore we rejoiced.

Restore again our fortunes, O Lord, as the river beds of the desert.

Those who sow in tears shall reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed, will come back with shouts of joy, bearing their sheaves with them.

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 7.23 to end

Furthermore, the former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; ²⁴ but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues for ever. ²⁵ Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. ²⁶ For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. ²⁸ For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever.

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 10.46 to end

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' ⁴⁸ Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' ⁴⁹ Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' ⁵⁰ So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.' ⁵² Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

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

'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' A short sentence from Bartimaeus, yet a gift to Catholic (Roman and Anglican – for the CofE is the Reformed catholic Church of England) and Orthodox Christians alike. These words of Bartimaeus form the basis of the 'Jesus prayer' - 'Jesus, son of God, have mercy on me'.

On hearing his cry from the crowd, whilst others try to silence him, Jesus calls Bartimaeus over and asks him the same question he asked James and John in the previous verses of Mark's gospel, 'what would you like me to do for you?' His reply could not have been different from the Sons of Thunder.

Bartimaeus would have been expected to ask, as most beggars would have done, for money – but he asks for his sight instead. Mark says in his response he calls Jesus his teacher. The theme of disciple is a core motif in Mark's gospel. Disciples need teachers; teachers who will help them to see again! Disciples also need to follow their master, follow in his way. Bartimaeus does this, his sight is restored and he follows Jesus on the way.

'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!'. The writer of Hebrews tells us that Jesus has accomplished his calling and is a high priest in the order of Melchizadeck - holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens and above all things permanent in his role. A role for all time, to save those who approach God through him, a role of intercession for them!

The heavenlies are beyond us for now, they are an ethereal place with little relationship to the blood, sweat and tears world we inhabit. In Bartimaeus' story we see the real world working out of the heaven's salvation – we see kingdom come and will done on earth as in heaven. We see the 'kingdom coming into being' reality in this world of the eternal workings of God's saviour. The vision of Jesus' role in heaven is made real in Mark's gospel.

As Bartimaeus cried out so should we in prayer, without letting others silence us; Jesus will intercede for us. Maybe we could spend time with the simple 'Jesus Prayer' – Jesus, son of God, have mercy on me. The usual suggested method is to still yourself and prayer the world repeatedly. But don't get too carried away with your words, because, as Bartimaeus shows us, we need to listen also. Listen for the voice of Jesus asking what it is we want him to do.

And more, we need to be ready to take action, to respond and follow his way – 'your kingdom come and will be done on earth as in heaven'. Many a time the answer to a cry for salvation has been to respond and follow – we might ask for God to put the fire out, but he might simply say take your hand away from the flames.

May we take courage and have hope knowing that Jesus ever stands to hear our cries for salvation and intercede on our behalf. May we also find our sight restored again and so follow him in his ways. May His kingdom come and will be done in your life, your earth as in heaven!

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*

We pray for all who mourn at this time, especially for the families and friends of Teresa Waterfield and Janet Lancaster

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: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, 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