

Our Sunday Service Together
June 29th 2025
2nd 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 Psalmody Psalm 16

Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge;
I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord, all my good depends on you.'
All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble in heart.
Though the idols are legion that many run after,
their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, neither make mention of their names upon my lips.
The Lord himself is my portion and my cup; in your hands alone is my fortune.
My share has fallen in a fair land; indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel, and in the night watches he instructs my heart.
I have set the Lord always before me; he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.
Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; my flesh also shall rest secure.
For you will not abandon my soul to Death, nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.
You will show me the path of life; in your presence is the fullness of joy
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.
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 Galatians 5.1 and 13-25

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.
For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' ¹⁵ If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶ Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
²² By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

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 Luke 9.51-62

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³ but they did not receive him, because his face was set towards Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, 'Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?' ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ Then they went on to another village.

⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' ⁵⁹ To another he said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' ⁶⁰ But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.' ⁶¹ Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' ⁶² Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

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

'I am the way, the truth and the life' declares Jesus in the gospels. Today, in our Luke passage he calls on folks to follow him. The question is 'how?', how do we follow Jesus?

There is the real sense that this is at the core of the conversation Paul is having with the church in Galatia. It is always good to remember that it took many decades following the death and resurrection of Jesus for folks to be called Christians; until that time, they were known by a slightly mysterious title 'followers of the way'; the way being both a person, Jesus is the way, and a method, the way of life his followers adopted.

It is good also to remember that Jesus is both the teacher and the syllabus for his followers, and more he is the enabler. Jesus enables those who would follow with both being a lived example and the source of the wisdom and the power to live in the new way, His kingdom ways.

Paul is keen that the folks at Galatia grasp this. Some seem to be falling back on old ways, legalistic ways, looking to the law of Moses that 'makes a slave' of the people (ironic when Moses led the people out of slavery!), where Christ sets them free. Some are falling back into old ways too; whilst not going to pagan temples to worship any longer they are living by the pagan society's standards and what is acceptable in life.

Paul's does not give space in his letter for specifics but helps folks to have a general guide by which they can look and ascertain by whose standards they are living. If there is fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these amongst the folks then these would indicate they are living by the patterns of the world, and not those of the new life they have in Christ.

If there is love (self-sacrificial rather than self-serving love), joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control then there is the life of the kingdom of God amongst the folks. But does this answer the question 'how' we follow? In many ways this list is like the legend on a map, these are the features of a good land to journey through that we would look for on the map of life; we still have to navigate, but how?

When we take a journey through a strange area, it is not always helpful to navigate by a set of complicated instructions, what works the best is to have someone jump in the seat next to you, who knows the way, and gives you the directions. We have such a guide, says Paul, the Spirit of Jesus Christ, come to us and able to both direct us, point out the features we are looking for, but also generate in us those indicators we are both following Jesus in each day as well as through becoming like him (for following the syllabus transforms us to become like the teacher).

The assists us to choose the streets marked by is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The question for the early church was simple which navigation system will you use on your journey? So, it remains for us today, also. Which navigation system will we use? Are we looking each day to be nudged and guided by the Spirit, or by the compulsions and obsessions of the world?

May we start each day by saying 'Come, Holy Spirit' to show us the way!

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

Strengthen our bishop, Michael and all who seek to serve you in this diocese. May they be filled with the Spirit and serve you as the first disciples. We give thanks this weekend for all offering themselves for ordination across Bath and Wells diocese, for all being ordained deacon and priest at this time. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We Pray for our all in public office. May they hear you call to seek justice, peace and reconciliation and be able to serve with humility and compassion. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

On this Armed Forces weekend we pray for all engaged in our armed services, for those in fear of life this day, for those who bear the scars (physical and psychological) of war. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We pray for the leaders of our industries and trades unions that they may work together for the good of all. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We pray 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 and risk their lives to care for them. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer*

Hear us as we remember those who have died..... According to your promises grant them a share in your eternal kingdom. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

May the joy of your presence, visions of your glory and the hope of your kingdom close at hand, strengthen us and give us your peace.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Collect

All: Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, 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