

# Our Sunday Service Together

July 20<sup>th</sup> 2025

5<sup>th</sup> 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 - 15

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may rest upon your holy hill?

Whoever leads an uncorrupt life and does the thing that is right;

Who speaks the truth from the heart and bears no deceit on the tongue;

Who does no evil to a friend and pours no scorn on a neighbour;

In whose sight the wicked are not esteemed, but who honours those who fear the Lord.

Whoever has sworn to a neighbour and never goes back on that word;

Who does not lend money in hope of gain, nor takes a bribe against the innocent;

Whoever does these things shall never fall.

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      Colossians 1.15-29

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup> for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

<sup>21</sup> And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup> he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him— <sup>23</sup> provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

<sup>24</sup> I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. <sup>25</sup> I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, <sup>26</sup> the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. <sup>27</sup> To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup> It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. <sup>29</sup> For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me.

*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 10.38-42

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. <sup>39</sup> She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. <sup>40</sup> But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' <sup>41</sup> But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; <sup>42</sup> there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

*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

Reading our passage from Colossians today you might wonder who Paul would be sat alongside – Mary or Martha? When we read 'For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me' we might instantly place Paul with Martha, up and at things, serving and serving until there is no more to do or give. But hearing the opening words to the passage (you might like to look again) and hearing great words of wonder and adoration you might think Paul would be sat with Mary, lost in that adoration and wonder.

Preachers will often look to divide the sisters and give categories into which we could slip; is your spirituality passive or energetically active? You may also have heard, when Jesus words 'Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her' that the better 'calling', that the true spiritual nature is a quiet, passive, contemplative sedate and devout one, rather than flying about making tea and sandwiches for the guests. Arguably, this has suited a male dominated world; not least because it lends it well for church to be a place that women go to, not men who need to get on with 'fixing things' on a Sunday.

Reading snippets of Jesus' narrative, not looking at the whole story will inevitably mean any one of us misses what he is really about.

People sat at a teacher's feet in Jesus' day, not to gaze in adoration, but to become teacher's themselves. The aim of being a disciple is always to become as the master/mistress. Paul himself had once sat at the feet of his master 'Gamaliel'. Arguably, one of the reasons Jesus retreats in prayer is to sit the Father's feet; which did not produce passivity in him, rather it enabled Jesus to become like the Father, to speak his words, to act in his name.

We see within the gospels Jesus time and again enable the male apostles to come aside with him and to be taught by him. Then he sends them out to take action after His ways, His directions; in His name. Mary does indeed choose the better part, not that of becoming meek and passive, but rather becoming a disciple; becoming like her master! Mary crossed the boundary and entered the world of men's discipleship, and Jesus affirms her right to be there; His space is for all to come and learn, female and male, young and old, Jew or gentile, and to follow him in 'the way'. All have the right to come.

Here is the revolution Jesus enacts throughout the gospels, all are welcome, all can become his disciples, and

all are called to become like him – to be those who know the heart of the Father; to be one with the Son and each other, just as the father and the Son are one in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

Paul writes to the church at Colossae, to folks steeped in adoration of Jesus and begins today to challenge them to become like him, as one who too is steeped in adoration of Christ, and to toil for the gospel.

We are likewise, as individuals and as churches, called adoration and to action through becoming disciples of Christ – which is the better part. The 'better part' because, through discipleship we discover our true vocation to become like our master and Lord. To become those who daily, in prayer and scripture seek the Father's heart and mind for our time and place, and then like our Lord, empowered by the Spirit of God with us, go and see the kingdom God come and His will done on earth as in heaven.

Ultimately, we are not called to be like Mary, Martha or Paul, but to become like Jesus, sent by our Father in heaven in love to a world needing to know the way and truth of our master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

## 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*

We pray for our bishops and all who seek to lead and bless our diocese at this time. May they be filled with the Spirit and serve you as the first disciples. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We pray for the victims of war, injustice, prejudice and abuse that they may find peace and reconciliation. May we never forget that all people are loved and valued by God regardless of differences.  
*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. *Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.*  
*Amen*

## The Collect

All: Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and 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