

Our Sunday Service Together

July 13th 2025

4th 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 Psalms Psalm 25.1-10

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies triumph over me.
Let none who look to you be put to shame, but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.
Make me to know your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you have I hoped all the day long.
Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.
Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions, but think on me in your goodness, O Lord,
according to your steadfast love.
Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore, shall he teach sinners in the way.
He will guide the humble in doing right and teach his way to the lowly.
All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.
For your name's sake, O Lord, be merciful to my sin, for it is great.
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 1.1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ²To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.
³In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel ⁶that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. ⁷This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow-servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, ⁸and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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 10.25-37

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' ²⁶ He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' ²⁷ He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' ²⁸ And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'

²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' ³⁰ Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' ³⁷ He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

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

There have been many issues raised by the Covid pandemic. Much is said about issues of financial impropriety, whether it was all a hoax, but a major concern raised has been that people found they were restricted, felt prevented even, from caring for their fellow human beings – be they family, friend or stranger.

There is something deeply human about responding to a need when someone is in trouble or sick, and I wonder if this is what Jesus uses the parable of the Samaritan to highlight.

The man talking with Jesus is looking for a way to be justified in the light of his faith. Jesus is happy to give him guidance and in essence says; as someone looking to be justified before God by the law of Moses, then keep the law fully – God will bless for that. The man seems content with the call to love God with all his abilities, but seeks further clarification from Jesus on loving his neighbour and ask 'who is my neighbour?'

I am sure, if Jesus had said, your neighbour is another Jew, the man would have warmed to the reply; but I wonder if he would have asked for further clarification still. Wonder if he would have said 'which type of Jew?' Surely Jesus would not suggest he loved the sinner or tax collector in their hour of need? What about a Sadducee? What about someone from a different Israelite tribe?

It is all too easy for any of us to seek to justify our actions, or even like the priest and the lawyer in the parable, to be concerned for any personal disadvantage assisting the needs of another might bring – what would others think? In the parable the Samaritan's actions are not driven by concerns for others opinions, or even by feeling good about himself, they are simply the result of compassion for the person before him in need. Compassion - 'feeling with', the suffering of the wounded and robbed man made the Samaritan take action.

But there is more than simple compassion that Jesus challenges the man, and his followers, to be moved by in the story. The Samaritan acts from a basis of mercy which mirrors the boundless mercy all receive in Christ – the man before Jesus has not been 'perfect' in relation to the law of Moses; as St Paul mentions across his writings 'all have sinned and fallen short, no one is justified by the law. Without favour, with nothing to offer in return, we receive the full grace of God in our hour of utmost need. And as we have received this grace, so too are we to be bearers of that grace. This is why Jesus teaches us to pray 'forgive our trespasses, as we too forgive those who trespass against us'.

It is possible to have compassion, but do we allow ourselves, as the Samaritan did, to be 'moved' by that compassion? We are ready to receive the forgiveness of God; can we be as ready to forgive others?

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

Come, Lord, come to us, that we may love you, live to your glory and proclaim you Kingdom in Jesus Christ and by the power of your Spirit. *Lord, we come to you – give us rest and refreshment.*

We pray for leaders, visionaries, researchers, for those who may have become dispirited by the task they face, wearied by the work they do. *Lord, we come to you – give us rest and refreshment.*

We pray for the refugees of the world, for nations struggling with flood and drought, for the UN and the W.H.O as they seek to bring relief. *Lord, we come to you – give us rest and refreshment.*

We pray for all who have lost the joy and pleasure of living, for the bored, the cynical, the lonely. The overworked and the stressed. *Lord, we come to you – give us rest and refreshment.*

Lord, make our homes places of peace and calm. We pray for families in strife, for relationships strained, for those suffering from domestic violence and abuse. *Lord, we come to you – give us rest and refreshment.*

We pray for the over anxious, the depressed and despairing, all those suffering from a breakdown. For all not coping alone and for those facing redundancy at this time.
Lord, we come to you – give us rest and refreshment.

We pray for all who are fully in your Kingdom, for whom the tussle of this life is over and the rest of your presence is complete and we give you thanks for your grace for them and for us in Christ Jesus our lord. Amen

The Collect

All: O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord 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