

Our Sunday Service Together

September 21st 2025

14th 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 113

Alleluia.

Give praise, you servants of the Lord, O praise the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the name of the Lord, from this time forth and for evermore.

From the rising of the sun to its setting let the name of the Lord be praised.

The Lord is high above all nations and his glory above the heavens.

Who is like the Lord our God, that has his throne so high, yet humbles himself to behold the things of heaven and earth?

He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ashes,

To set them with princes, with the princes of his people.

He gives the barren woman a place in the house and makes her a joyful mother of children.

Alleluia.

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 1 Timothy 2.1-7

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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 16.1-13

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.'

Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his

master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

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 is nothing wrong, per se, with money; after all it is just an inanimate object created by humanity. However, in what does seem at times one of the most complex of Jesus' parables, we are left with no doubt we can't serve both God and wealth.

Within any form of Judaism in Jesus' day, and Christianity to follow, it sounds quite absurd to suggest that the creature should serve its creation. That humans could be so distracted, and diminished in their humanity, from that which gives a full and flourishing life is quite sad. Yet the reality is we are all distracted to one degree or other from the fullness of relationship and life with God; we all worship other 'things' to one degree or other which pushes out the full life possible through relationship with God, our creator.

What are we to do then, retreat from the fallen world we sojourn in as God's people? Some have indeed sought to separate themselves completely, remove all possible temptation, find a mountain top away from everything that might contaminate us. Yet Jesus shows us, as he eats with sinners and tax collectors, as God is become incarnate through him, that 'being in the world is the route to win the world'.

Whenever we hear Jesus talk of master and steward we are supposed to think of God and, if not the entirety of humanity, then the people of God. In Jesus' parable then we are to see it is the people of God who have been caught out by their master. They have been dishonest in their management of the estate and looked for their own glory, rather than that of the master.

In the parable quick thinking ensues as the steward realises he is found out and a very strange, almost disturbing action follows. If it was not enough to have cheated the master already, now the steward double cheats him by reducing what the debtors owe the master. Ok, so the steward doesn't get his job back, but he has made friends through his actions. Reinstating the debts in full, to cancel all the transactions, would be have been unthinkable, as this would damage the master's now glowing reputation in town. There is indeed something to be applauded then in this 'win, win' situation.

For certain we cannot serve both God and money, but within the fallen world we find ourselves might we serve God by being strategic and wise — being faithful — in how we deal with the economic resources of that fallen world which are at our disposal. Indeed, it would seem we can!

The enormous disparity in wealth between the rich and most others in many parts of the world today highlights the importance of creating more-just systems that make many more friends for us among under-resourced persons and communities.

It is right and proper then that in all ways we can serve God's purposes in redeeming the world and worship God in the use of the money we have, put it at the use of his honour and reputation and see the kingdom of God come on earth.

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 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 King and government, that they may have the wisdom and courage necessary to guide our nation. *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 use of the gifts of God entrusted to us, that we may use them responsibly for the good of all. Especially we pray for those returning to school, college or university.
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 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

The Collect

All: Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth;
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

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