

Our Sunday Service Together

19th October 2025

19th 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 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
He will not suffer your foot to stumble; he who watches over you will not sleep.
Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord himself watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
So that the sun shall not strike you by day, neither the moon by night.
The Lord shall keep you from all evil; it is he who shall keep your soul.
The Lord shall keep watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth 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 2 Timothy 3.14 to 4.5

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

At the end of the reading we say:

All: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gloría

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 18.1-8

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, "Grant me justice against my opponent." ⁴ For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, "Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming." ⁶ And the Lord said, 'Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him

day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?’

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

It is helpful to hold three things in mind as we approach our gospel today.

First, a parable is not a recollection of an incident but a tale, often shocking to Jesus’ first hearers. “Can it be?” the parables make us wonder. “Is that really what the kingdom is like?” And in the midst of wonder and confusion lies the power of these storied comparisons.

Second, this section of Luke’s gospel is all about ‘the kingdom of God’, written to people desperate for deliverance from the politics and oppression of Rome. When will this ‘kingdom’ come is precisely what the chapter before today’s is looking to; the end of the present order and the breaking in of God’s order for things.

Thirdly, the first hearers of Luke’s gospel have been under some pressure, persecution is on the rise and they cry for help; every day they pray.

The ‘kingdom’ is not about time. It cannot be pointed out. It is not even something to be seen. The kingdom is to be felt and experienced. Jesus concludes, “The kingdom of God is among you”; it can be discerned where the faithful gather. Another way to think of this ‘kingdom’ is to see it is “within you,” that the kingdom reigns in the hearts of believers who, in their journey through this tattered world, bringing God’s life in their wake.

The Lord’s prayer can be said ‘your kingdom come and will be done, here IN earth, as in heaven’, rather than ‘on earth as in heaven’. The kingdom come ‘on earth’ suggests an empire type rule over everything; Jesus is the replacement for Caesar in this way of thinking and his followers simply his subjects. The kingdom come ‘in earth’ points to the restoration of humanity, of Adam fashioned from the clay of the earth. This is about God with us, in us, present with peace beyond understanding, transforming us and through our changed attitudes and ways of living, transforming the world about us.

And so, the encouragement in this parable is to pray always and never lose heart”!

This is a parable many of us need these days! In a world teeming with disappointment, hopelessness, injustice, war and the everyday corruption portrayed by the judge’s disregard for the widow’s plight in the parable, Jesus offers both encouragement in prayer and a hope.

The character of the judge is the mirror image of justice we hope for when someone wields so much power over his neighbours. The widow, unnamed represents someone without the political and economic clout the judge can wield. Yet her power has effect, her persistence in seeking justice reaps reward. Because the widow will not relent, the judge does.

Keep praying, never give up, not because God can be persuaded into giving a concession – that is not how God responds to prayer. God receives our supplications with love, answers them with care; in a manner expedient to us. But are we not more to think of the widow and her faithfulness, than the judge character?

Her persistence in a broken system is a model offered to Luke’s first hearers, to the early church facing continued injustice and persecution in Roman society. Though the world about us is broken, we are able to follow in faith the kingdom within, knowing as we do that God’s economy of grace is not ruled by the whims of a judge. The widow’s persistence is an emblem of faithfulness. Her boldness is rewarded. Her courage to

draw upon the seemingly meagre “weapons of the weak” in a system that would side-line her and deny her justice is a path to follow as we await our deliverance.

Perhaps this is precisely the kind of faith Jesus wonders if he will find on his return — a faith that demands justice in a world coursing with injustice, a faith that persists in seeking life, a faith that looks to God’s promises and lives so they will be fulfilled today, within each of us and in our living faithfully, through us.

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

Father, may we show your love and your salvation in our lives, that the church may order its priorities with those of your Kingdom revealed in Christ, that it may grow in holiness and in outreach.

Spirit of God, guide us and strengthen us.

We pray for all who hunger for goodness and righteousness, for all who serve you by serving others. We pray for world leaders, for all who influence our future, for those who work in the press or broadcasting, for artists, musicians and writers, for those who seek to care for and improve the environment.

Spirit of God, guide us and strengthen us.

May your church set an example by the way we live. We seek forgiveness for past transgressions, for the support of fallen and corrupt government systems, rather than offering challenge to the. For times when your church has enabled abuse, racism, inequality or violence within the world. We pray for healing, for redemption and for good relationships and honest dealing.

Spirit of God, guide us and strengthen us.

We pray for all who are weak, for the weak willed and weak minded, for all led into crime or vice. We give thanks for and pray for those working for the rehabilitation of addicts or criminals.

Spirit of God, guide us and strengthen us.

We remember those who are anxious at this time for their work, their health, their homes or communities. We pray for those depressed or despairing, for all who have lost vision or hope. For the sick, for those facing tests or operations. We also pray for all who minister to the sick, the elderly and those in care.

Spirit of God, guide us and strengthen us.

We entrust to your power our friends and loved ones in this world, and those who have departed from our sight. We pray that we may all at the last share in the joy and peace of your kingdom.

Spirit of God, guide us and strengthen us. Amen.

The Collect

All: Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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.

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