

# Our Sunday Service Together

## 5<sup>th</sup> October 2025



### 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.

## Scripture Reading      Genesis 8.15-22

Then God said to Noah, <sup>16</sup>“Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. <sup>17</sup>Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” <sup>18</sup>So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives. <sup>19</sup>And every animal, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out of the ark by families.

<sup>20</sup>Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. <sup>21</sup>And when the Lord smelled the pleasing odour, the Lord said in his heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of humankind, for the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth; nor will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done. <sup>22</sup>As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”

*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      Matthew 6.25-33

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup>And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>28</sup>And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup>yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup>Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ <sup>32</sup>For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup>But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

*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

Sometimes it is helpful to go back to the beginning, or as close as you can to catch an idea of the what was intended and as you come up to date to plot similarities and contrasts between then and now.

We see science doing just such a thing, gazing back in time to the beginnings of the universe, or close to it to catch a glimpse of what was and to see how things are the same today or maybe very different.

When it comes to the bible we go to the beginning, to Genesis – after all that is what the word means ‘the beginning of all things’.

As the chapters unfold we see glimpses of humanity’s beginnings, of things taking detrimental turns which impact existence itself. And in the story of Noah we are given a glimpse of God acting to give a new future, for humanity and for creation – which it seems has suffered thanks to the way humanity is treating it.

The flood is a drastic solution to the problem, if it weren’t for the ark and Noah it could have been declared as a complete ‘baby out with the bath water’ moment.

However, we see here the first instance maybe of God always looking to offer a future, a way back for humanity to fulfil their glory as imagers of God and as those who care for creation.

As the earth dries and Noah and the animals and birds gathered in the ark step forward we see Noah’s first act - to worship God and make a tangible offering of thanksgiving for God’s salvation and for the future made possible.

As is the nature of true thanksgiving, this was a costly offering unto God. With only seven of each animal on the ark, Noah risked extinction by sacrificing some of these animals.

The sacrifice is the turning-point. Without a sacrifice sin clamours for vengeance, and God sends a destroying flood; but the sacrifice presented by Noah was typical of the coming sacrifice of God’s only begotten Son, and of the effectual atonement therein provided for human sin.

And when we gather to worship, not just at Harvest time, and especially when we celebrate God’s salvation in Christ in the Eucharist – literally in the ‘Thanksgiving’ - we very often end with a prayer which sums up our calling today to make generosity the basis for our offering thanks to God; ‘we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice, send us in the power of your Spirit, to live and work for your praise and glory’; a prayer I am sure Noah would say ‘amen’ to.

This is to risk all as he did, in thanksgiving and praise; we offer our entire selves, generously, completely in response to God’s immeasurable gift to us in Christ Jesus. We make our offering completely, not asking ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’, but seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

## 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*

Let us pray to God, the Lord of the harvest, that he will bring to fruition all that he desires for his creation.

Heavenly Father we give thanks to you for the harvest we celebrate today.

We give thanks for your provision of all we have need of.

We give thanks for all who labour to produce the harvest.

We give thanks for all who ensure we are tended and cared for each day.

We give thanks for your continued love for this world and for ourselves. Amen

You have created the universe by your eternal Word, and have blessed humankind in giving us dominion over the earth: we pray for the world, that we may honour and share its resources, and live in reverence for the creation and in harmony with one another. *Lord of the harvest, in your mercy hear us.*

Your Son has promised that the Spirit will lead us into all truth: we pray for the community in which you have set us, for one another and for ourselves, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace. *Lord of the harvest, in your mercy hear us.*

Your Son Jesus Christ is the first-fruits of the resurrection and will reap the harvest of the dead at the end of time: we pray that he will gather us all together with those who have gone before in the banquet of the age to come. *Lord of the harvest, in your mercy hear us.*

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints, we commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love. Amen.

## The Collect

All: Creator God, you made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons; as we thank you for the harvest, may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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