

The second Sunday after Trinity

9th June 2024



In the name of the + Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Greeting

Grace, mercy, and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

HYMN

1 Let all the world in every corner sing,
"My God and King!"
The heavens are not too high,
God's praise may thither fly;
the earth is not too low,
God's praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
"My God and King!"

2 Let all the world in every corner sing,
"My God and King!"
The church with psalms must shout:
no door can keep them out.
But, more than all, the heart
must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
"My God and King!"

Invitations to Confession

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins.
For turning away from you,
and ignoring your will for our lives;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

For behaving just as we wish,
without thinking of you;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

For failing you by what we do,
and think and say;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you
by temptations in the world about us;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

For living as if we were ashamed
to belong to your Son;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

Absolution

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive us our sins, +
open our eyes to your truth,
strengthen us to do your will
and give us the joy of knowing ourselves as your children,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

The Collect

Lord, you have taught us
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:
send your Holy Spirit
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son 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.

A reading from the Old Testament
Genesis 3. 8-15

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

14 So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,
"Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals!
You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust
all the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity
between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

1 Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;
 2 Lord, hear my voice.
 Let your ears be attentive
 to my cry for mercy.



3 If you, Lord, kept a record of sins,
 Lord, who could stand?
 4 But with you there is forgiveness,
 so that we can, with reverence, serve you.
 5 I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits,
 and in his word I put my hope.
 6 I wait for the Lord
 more than watchmen wait for the morning,
 more than watchmen wait for the morning.

7 Israel, put your hope in the Lord,
 for with the Lord is unfailing love
 and with him is full redemption.
 8 He himself will redeem Israel
 from all their sins.

A reading from the New Testament
 2 Corinthians 5.4. 13-5.1

13 It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, 14 because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. 15 All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

5 For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

This is the word of the Lord
 Thanks be to God

HYMN

1 O for a closer walk with God,
 a calm and heavenly frame,
 a light to shine upon the road
 that leads me to the Lamb.

3 Return, O holy Dove, return,
 sweet messenger of rest;
 I hate the sins that made thee mourn,
 and drove thee from my breast.

2 Where is the blessedness I knew
when first I saw the Lord?
Where is the soul-refreshing view
of Jesus and his word.

4 The dearest idol I have known,
whate'er that idol be,
help me to tear it from thy throne,
and worship only thee.

5 So shall my walk be close with God,
calm and serene my frame;
so purer light shall mark the road
that leads me to the Lamb.

The Gospel

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
one God, who was, and who is, and who is to come,
the Almighty.

Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel is from the 3rd chapter of the Gospel of Mark beginning at the 20th verse.

Glory to you O Lord

Jesus Accused by His Family and by Teachers of the Law

20 Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. 21 When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."

22 And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons."

23 So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? 24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. 26 And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. 27 In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house. 28 Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, 29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin."

30 He said this because they were saying, "He has an impure spirit."

31 Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. 32 A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

33 "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked.

34 Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ

This is one of those Sundays where each reading is so rich in itself – where to begin? Well at the beginning might be an idea with the reading from Genesis. Whether you imagine this at literal or allegorical, or mythical (in the true sense of that word), what we have is a picture of humankind's beginning and subsequent estrangement from God. Oceans of ink have been used to discuss this text so just a few observations may be helpful.

It is tempting to think of Adam and Eve as symbolising a sort of pure humankind, living in a paradise of peace and I think that is implied. But interestingly their creation and placement in this garden which God planted, was not without boundaries. There are two trees mentioned: the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge -the difference between, good and evil, blessing and calamity. They could eat freely of every tree except the Tree of Knowledge. Enter the serpent. This was a crucial test in which the 'serpent' tempts them to test the boundaries, to imagine something is being kept from them.

In case you are still in the story here is an 'alert point' for us all. We can know there are boundaries in our own lives and that there is also the temptation to 'play with sin'. The boundaries seem suddenly constraining and boring so tentatively or boldly we step outside. We also then must face the consequences.

The fruit is taken and eaten and immediately they know themselves separated from their relationship with God. The deed is done. There now comes blame shifting on Adam's part and excuses from Eve. The saddest part is their being driven from the garden, which, in truth, is God's mercy to prevent them eating from the Tree of Life and live for ever in this estranged state.

Theologians call the words spoken by God to the serpent, the protoevangel, the first mention of what God is going to do to 'fix' the disobedience of Adam and Eve. One will come who will overcome the work of the evil one and 'crush his head' and restore humankind.

At this point also, one might ask why God 'set this up'. Why make it possible for humankind to mess up? There is mystery here. God could have created in such a way that it would be impossible for us to act other than in line with God's will rather like extreme AI – but even here we fear what could develop. In the mystery of the purposes of God is the precariousness of free will. A creator who loves enough to allow us – to let us - choose. It is our freedom of choice that makes our choice of value.

Paul alludes to the estrangement we have and its remedy. He addresses the seemingly universal sense we have of something beyond this life. He writes of the raising up of what is temporary to what is eternal, from what we now see into that which is unseen at present. This is a source of faith and hope. Our outward life gradually wastes away but the life of the risen Lord Jesus is within and renews us. Paul uses the image of a tent, a temporary thing in contrast to a building and one made by God. For Paul this is the transition – a restoration to the fellowship with God which Genesis describes.

The gospel brings us down to earth and another beginning. Jesus has begun his ministry, gathered some disciples and is now becoming noticed. To his family he is a mix of concern and embarrassment, they want to gather him up to remove and protect him as he is acting madly. To the scribes, who monitor the keeping of the Law, he is obviously in league with demons as he can control them and so they malign him. Jesus' teaching on 'satan' makes a direct link to the serpent in the garden. The serpent may indeed snap at his heel, but Jesus is crushing its head.

His teaching on blasphemy against the Holy Spirit exposes the terrifying freedom we have to reject our Maker and refuse to hear his voice. To harden our hearts to put, and keep, ourselves beyond his forgiveness by refusing to respond to him and harden our hearts against the call to turn and begin anew with him.

Amidst all this hubbub Jesus calmly addresses them both. He points out the illogical nonsense of the scribes and expands the whole idea of relationships. The passage ends with the wonderful thought that we can become the brother, sister, mother in relationship to Jesus. There are no closer relationships. Such is the gracious love of God, who from the very beginning has brought us back to himself.

The creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Intercessions

Saviour of the world,
be present in all places of suffering, violence, and pain,
and bring hope even in the darkest night.
Inspire us to continue your work of reconciliation today.

Lord of the Church,
empower by your Spirit all Christian people,
and the work of your Church in every land.
Give us grace to proclaim the gospel joyfully in word and deed

Shepherd and Guardian of our souls,
guide and enable all who lead and serve this community
and those on whom we depend for our daily needs.
Grant that we may seek the peace and welfare of this place.

Great Physician,
stretch out your hand to bring comfort, wholeness and peace
to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.
Fill us with compassion, that we may be channels of your healing love.

Conqueror of death,
remember for good those whom we love but see no longer.
Help us to live this day in the sure and certain hope of your eternal victory.

Loving Saviour,
may all creation be held within your
merciful care and protection. Amen

Being made one by the power of the Spirit,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

God of truth,
help us to keep your law of love
and to walk in ways of wisdom,
that we may find true life
in Jesus Christ, your Son.
Amen

Blessings and Ending

The God of all grace
Who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus
Establish, strengthen, and settle you in the faith
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
Be with you and remain with you always.
Amen

HYMN

1 In Christ there is no East or West,
In Him no South or North;
But one great fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.

3 In Christ now meet both East and West,
In Him meet South and North;
All Christlike souls are one in Him
Throughout the whole wide earth.

2 Join hands, then, members of the faith,
Whatever your race may be!
Who serves my Father as His child
Is surely kin to me.

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