

# The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

## BIBLE SUNDAY

27<sup>th</sup> October 2024



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

Faithful Lord,  
You have spoken to us through the scriptures  
revealing your redeeming love for creation.  
Your mercy has no end.  
Grant us the grace to trust you  
and to receive the gifts of your love,  
new every morning,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### HYMN

1 Thou whose almighty word  
Chaos and darkness heard,  
And took their flight;  
Hear us, we humbly pray,  
And where the gospel-day  
Sheds not its glorious ray,  
Let there be light!

2 Thou who didst come to bring  
On thy redeeming wing  
Healing and sight,  
Health to the sick in mind,  
Sight to the inly blind:  
O now to all humankind  
Let there be light!

3 Spirit of truth and love,  
Life-giving, holy dove,  
Speed forth thy flight!  
Move o'er the water's face  
Bearing the lamp of grace,  
And, in earth's darkest place  
Let there be light!

4 Blessed and holy Three,  
Glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might;  
Boundless as ocean's tide,  
Rolling in fullest pride,  
Through the world, far and wide,  
Let there be light!

### Prayer of Preparation

### Invitation to Confession

The word of God is living and active.  
It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart.  
All is open and laid bare before the eyes of him  
to whom we give account.  
We confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Let your faithful love come unto me, O Lord,  
even your salvation, according to your promise:

Lord, have mercy.

Your word is a lantern to my feet  
and a light upon my path:

Christ, have mercy.

I have gone astray like a sheep that is lost;

O seek your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.

Lord, have mercy.

### **Absolution**

May the Father of all mercies  
cleans us from our sins, +  
and restore us in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

### **The Collect**

Blessed Lord,  
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:  
help us so to hear them,  
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them  
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,  
we may embrace and for ever hold fast  
the hope of everlasting life,  
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
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 Isaiah 55 1-11**

“Come, all you who are thirsty,  
come to the waters;

and you who have no money,  
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without cost.

<sup>2</sup>Why spend money on what is not bread,  
and your labour on what does not satisfy?

Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,  
and you will delight in the richest of fare.

<sup>3</sup>Give ear and come to me;  
listen, that you may live.

I will make an everlasting covenant with you,  
my faithful love promised to David.

<sup>4</sup>See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,  
a ruler and commander of the peoples.

<sup>5</sup>Surely you will summon nations you know not,  
and nations you do not know will come running to you,  
because of the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has endowed you with splendour.”

<sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
 call on him while he is near.  
<sup>7</sup> Let the wicked forsake their ways  
 and the unrighteous their thoughts.  
 Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them,  
 and to our God, for he will freely pardon.  
<sup>8</sup> "For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
 neither are your ways my ways,"  
 declares the LORD.  
<sup>9</sup> "As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
 so are my ways higher than your ways  
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.  
<sup>10</sup> As the rain and the snow  
 come down from heaven,  
 and do not return to it  
 without watering the earth  
 and making it bud and flourish,  
 so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,  
<sup>11</sup> so is my word that goes out from my mouth:  
 It will not return to me empty,  
 but will accomplish what I desire  
 and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

This is the word of the Lord  
 Thanks be to God

**The psalm  
 Psalm 19. 7-end**

<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect,  
 refreshing the soul.  
 The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,  
 making wise the simple.  
<sup>8</sup> The precepts of the LORD are right,  
 giving joy to the heart.  
 The commands of the LORD are radiant,  
 giving light to the eyes.



<sup>9</sup> The fear of the LORD is pure,  
 enduring forever.  
 The decrees of the LORD are firm,  
 and all of them are righteous.  
<sup>10</sup> They are more precious than gold,  
 than much pure gold;  
 they are sweeter than honey,  
 than honey from the honeycomb.  
<sup>11</sup> By them your servant is warned;

in keeping them there is great reward.  
<sup>12</sup> But who can discern their own errors?  
 Forgive my hidden faults.  
<sup>13</sup> Keep your servant also from wilful sins;  
 may they not rule over me.  
 Then I will be blameless,  
 innocent of great transgression.

<sup>14</sup> May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart  
be pleasing in your sight,  
LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

**A Reading from The New Testament**  
**2 Tim 3. 14-4.5**

<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup> and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God<sup>[a]</sup> may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. **4** In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: <sup>2</sup> Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. <sup>4</sup> They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. <sup>5</sup> But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

This is the word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God

**HYMN**

1 Lord, thy word abideth,  
and our footsteps guideth;  
who its truth believeth  
light and joy receiveth

3 When the storms are o'er us,  
and dark clouds before us,  
then its light directeth,  
and our way protecteth.

5 Word of mercy, giving  
succour to the living;  
word of life, supplying  
comfort to the dying.

2 When our foes are near us,  
then thy word doth cheer us,  
word of consolation,  
message of salvation.

4 Who can tell the pleasure,  
who recount the treasure  
by thy word imparted  
to the simple-hearted?

6 O that we discerning  
its most holy learning,  
Lord, may love and fear thee,  
evermore be near thee!

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia.  
Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.  
You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia.

**The Gospel**

The holy Gospel is written in the 5<sup>th</sup> Chapter of the Gospel according to John beginning at the 36<sup>th</sup> verse.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord

For the works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me. <sup>37</sup> And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, <sup>38</sup> nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. <sup>39</sup> You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, <sup>40</sup> yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

<sup>41</sup> “I do not accept glory from human beings, <sup>42</sup> but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts. <sup>43</sup> I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else

comes in his own name, you will accept him. <sup>44</sup> How can you believe since you accept glory from one another but do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

<sup>45</sup> “But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. <sup>46</sup> If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. <sup>47</sup> But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?”

This is the Gospel of the Lord  
Praise be to thee, O Christ

## Reflection

This time last year I received an invitation; “Would I like to come with me to a concert with a picnic beforehand”? I was delighted and went and had a lovely time.

Most often we are pleased to receive an invitation, a proper invitation I mean not just those churned out by organisations just out for our money because we have been ‘noticed’ and want us to sign up for something. This invitation was different, I felt it was my company that was wanted, and it promised something pleasant shared with others.

Thinking about it a bit I became intrigued about the language we use. For example, if I had been asked “Would you like to go to a concert?” it has a different feeling altogether. Was this just to inquire whether I would like to go in theory, was it purely hypothetical? Was it enquiring whether I liked concerts in general, a bit like a YouGov poll? Or it could just be that someone wanted to pass on an unwanted ticket? Neither of those have the same feeling as “Would you like to come with me?”

Isaiah summons us to a true feast and prophetic promise of the One who will come as a gift, the Messiah to whom all nations, Jew and gentile shall run. His call is urgent. The KJV gives the first word not as “Come...” but as “Ho!”, a loud cry, more a sound than a word, to grab our attention. The invitation has a sense of urgency; “listen”, “seek”, “turn” and asks the question; “Why do you spend and labour for what does not satisfy?” What answer do we have for that?

God’s invitation is an open one. The RSVP still stands. Likely we will hear many times because, to take the analogy further, we think it is mis-directed, we bin it, we forget to action, we say yes and fail to turn up, mislay the invite, decide to do something better etc. But this personal invitation remains open to you and me for as long as we have life.

The invitation I received was for a ‘one-off’ event. Even so I prepared for the occasion, I adjusted my routine to be ready and chose appropriate clothes. This is normal practice in life, we understand that preparation is necessary for all sorts of things, sometimes little, sometimes much. If I were going abroad, I ought to give some attention to the language and customs of my destination.

This is Bible Sunday when we are encouraged to ‘hear, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest’ the scriptures. The very beautiful Psalm 19 eloquently describes our attention to the word of God. It will refresh our soul, make us wise, give us joy, enlighten our eyes. The words are precious beyond much gold and sweeter than honey. They are also the language of God and if we believe life continues closer to God after our death, we are plain foolish not to acquaint ourselves with the language.

Acquaintance and knowledge are not the same thing. Knowledge can be produced by my AI Copilot on my computer – in fact I can get it to write this reflection (hmm...!?). Acquaintance is altogether different; I can be acquainted with a person, only informed by knowledge.

Jesus makes this clear; “*You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.*” They had much knowledge, but it was mixed with human effort. So much so they would not see Truth standing in front of them. The pride in their knowledge was such that to let it all go, was too much. They refused the simple invitation to life offered by Jesus, convinced they would figure it out for themselves.

All of scripture requires us to inhabit, to enter, to hold, and think about it. The scripture does not give itself up easily, cheaply, or ever completely. It requires us to recall, reflect, ruminate, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest. However many times we read, if we allow by giving our attention, the scripture will reveal a new truth and deeper meaning, for it is a living word inspired by the Spirit of God to bring us into revelation.

It is wondrously personal, and unique to each one. It is the language of the Kingdom. In the life that remains to each of us is the opportunity to become familiar with its tone, its nuanced thought, its linguistic cadence, its beauty and sweetness so that we '...be not a dumb stranger' when we arrive.

## **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.  
Amen.

## **Intercessions**

Let us give thanks for the gift of the Bible  
and pray for all who enable it to be studied, understood, and loved.

Almighty God,  
in your goodness you have given us the Scriptures  
to equip us for every kind of good deed.  
We give thanks for all who translate the Bible,  
and pray that, through their work and skill,

your word may go forth to the ends of the earth.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We give thanks for all who distribute the Scriptures,

and pray that, through the written text,

your people may be built up in faith and love.

We give thanks for all whose learning interprets the Scriptures,

and pray for biblical scholars and theologians,

that more light and truth may break forth from your word.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We give thanks for all preachers and teachers,

and pray that, through the word proclaimed and shared,

your Church may grow in holiness and discipleship.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We give thanks for all who read the Bible in public worship,

for all study groups and training courses,

and pray that, through the study of the Scriptures,

your word may find a home in the hearts of your people.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Gracious Lord,

grant to us that loving your holy word,

we may adorn it with obedient and Christlike lives;

to the glory of your name.

These and all the silent prayers of our hearts we offer to you.

Merciful father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ

our lord. Amen

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, our judge and saviour,

teach us to be open to your truth

and to trust in your love,

that we may live each day

with confidence in the salvation which is given  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### We pray for God's blessing

Live this day in peace,  
knowing that you have been born again,  
not of perishable seed, but of imperishable,  
through the living and enduring word of God;  
And the blessing of  
God who created you  
Jesus the Christ who saves you  
And the Spirit who is within you +  
Be with you and with all for whom you pray  
Now and always  
Amen

### HYMN

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|--|--|--|
| 1. We have a gospel to proclaim,<br>Good news for men in all the<br>earth;<br>The gospel of a Saviour's name,<br>We sing His glory, tell His worth | 3. Tell of His death at Calvary,<br>Hated by those He came to<br>save,<br>In lonely suffering on the<br>cross,<br>For all He loved His life He<br>gave.          | 5. Tell of His reign at God's right<br>hand,<br>By all creation glorified,<br>He sends His Spirit on His Church,<br>To live for Him, the Lamb who<br>died. |
| 2. Tell of His birth at Bethlehem,<br>Not in a royal house or hall<br>But in a stable dark and dim,<br>The Word made flesh, a light for<br>all.    | 4. Tell of that glorious Easter<br>moon,<br>Empty the tomb, for He was<br>free.<br>He broke the power of death<br>and hell<br>That we might share His<br>victory | 6. Now we rejoice to name Him<br>King,<br>Jesus is Lord of all the earth,<br>This gospel message we proclaim,<br>We sing His glory, tell His worth.        |



\* This official Daily Prayer app, it's free. Complete services for Morning, Evening and Night Prayer from the Church of England. <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/daily-prayer>



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