



# SERVICE OF THE WORD

The First Sunday after Trinity

19<sup>th</sup> June 2022

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

**All Amen.**

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

**All And also with you.**

## Prayer of Preparation

Holy God,  
faithful and unchanging:  
enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth,  
and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love,  
that we may truly worship you,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## HYMN 345 NEH

1 Christ is the King! O friends rejoice;  
brothers and sisters, with one voice  
let the world know He is your choice.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

2 O magnify the Lord, and raise  
anthems of joy and holy praise  
for Christ's brave saints of ancient days.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

3 They with a faith for ever new  
followed the King, and round him drew  
thousands of servants brave and true.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

4 O Christian women, Christian men,  
all the world over, seek again  
the way disciples followed then.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

5 Christ through all ages is the same:  
place the same hope in His great name,  
With the same faith His word proclaim.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 Let love's unconquerable might  
your scattered companies unite  
in service to the Lord of light.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

7 So shall God's will on earth be done,  
new lamps be lit, new tasks begun,  
and the whole church at last be one.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## Kyrie Confessions

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:

**All save us and help us.**

For behaving just as we wish,  
without thinking of you;

Father, forgive us:

**All save us and help us.**

For failing you by what we do,  
and think and say;

Father, forgive us:

**All save us and help us.**

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you  
by temptations in the world about us;

Father, forgive us:

**All save us and help us.**

For living as if we were ashamed  
to belong to your Son;

Father, forgive us:

**All 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 God's truth,  
strengthen us to do God's will  
and give us the joy of his kingdom,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## The Collect

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you,  
mercifully accept our prayers  
and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature  
we can do no good thing without you,  
grant us the help of your grace,  
that in the keeping of your commandments  
we may please you both in will and deed;  
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 Righteousness of God's Judgement

65 I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask,  
to be found by those who did not seek me.  
I said, 'Here I am, here I am',  
to a nation that did not call on my name.  
2 I held out my hands all day long  
to a rebellious people,  
who walk in a way that is not good,  
following their own devices;  
3 a people who provoke me  
to my face continually,  
sacrificing in gardens  
and offering incense on bricks;  
4 who sit inside tombs,  
and spend the night in secret places;  
who eat swine's flesh,  
with broth of abominable things in their vessels;  
5 who say, 'Keep to yourself,  
do not come near me, for I am too holy for you.'  
These are a smoke in my nostrils,  
a fire that burns all day long.

This is the word of the Lord

### Thanks be to God

19 But you, O Lord, do not be far away!  
O my help, come quickly to my aid!  
20 Deliver my soul from the sword,  
my life from the power of the dog!  
21 Save me from the mouth of the lion!

From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.

22 I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:  
23 You who fear the Lord, praise him!  
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;  
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!  
24 For he did not despise or abhor  
the affliction of the afflicted;  
he did not hide his face from me,  
but heard when I cried to him.

6 See, it is written before me:

I will not keep silent, but I will repay;  
I will indeed repay into their laps  
7 their iniquities and their ancestors' iniquities  
together,  
says the Lord;  
because they offered incense on the mountains  
and reviled me on the hills,  
I will measure into their laps  
full payment for their actions.

8 Thus says the Lord:

As the wine is found in the cluster,  
and they say, 'Do not destroy it,  
for there is a blessing in it',  
so I will do for my servants' sake,  
and not destroy them all.

9 I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,  
and from Judah inheritors of my mountains;  
my chosen shall inherit it,  
and my servants shall settle there.

Psalm 22 19-28

25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.



26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the Lord.  
May your hearts live for ever!

27 All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the Lord;  
and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before him.

28 For dominion belongs to the Lord,  
and he rules over the nations.

### A reading from the New Testament

Galatians 3 23 - end

#### Law or Faith

3 You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly exhibited as crucified! 2 The only thing I want to learn from you is this: Did you receive the Spirit by doing the works of the law or by believing what you heard? 3 Are you so foolish? Having started with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh? 4 Did you experience so much for nothing?—if it really was for nothing. 5 Well then, does God supply you with the Spirit and work miracles among you by your doing the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard?

6 Just as Abraham 'believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness', 7 so, you see, those who believe are the descendants of Abraham. 8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, declared the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, 'All the Gentiles shall be blessed in you.' 9 For this reason, those who believe are blessed with Abraham who believed.

10 For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law.' 11 Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law; for 'The one who is righteous will live by faith.' 12 But the law does not rest on faith; on the contrary, 'Whoever does the works of the law will live by them.' 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree'— 14 in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

#### The Promise to Abraham

15 Brothers and sisters, I give an example from daily life: once a person's will has been ratified, no one adds to it or annuls it. 16 Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring; it does not say, 'And to offsprings', as of many; but it says, 'And to your offspring', that is, to one person, who is Christ. 17 My point is this: the law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. 18 For if the inheritance comes from the law, it no longer comes from the promise; but God granted it to Abraham through the promise.

#### The Purpose of the Law

19 Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring would come to whom the promise had been made; and it was ordained through angels by a mediator. 20 Now a mediator involves more than one party; but God is one.

21 Is the law then opposed to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could make alive, then righteousness would indeed come through the law. 22 But the scripture has imprisoned all things under the power of sin, so that what was promised through faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. 23 Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

#### **HYMN 481 NEH**

Jesus, lord, we look to thee,  
let us in thy name agree;  
show thyself the prince of peace;  
bid our wars for ever cease.

Free from anger and from pride,  
let us thus in God abide;  
all the depths of love express,  
all the heights of holiness!

Make us of one heart and mind,  
courteous, pitiful, and kind,  
lowly, meek, in thought and word,  
altogether like our lord.

Love, all hatreds has destroyed,  
rendered all distinctions void;  
colour, race, and factions fall;  
thou, O Christ, art all in all

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord.

No one comes to the Father except through me

**Alleluia.**

The Holy Gospel is from the 8<sup>th</sup> Chapter of the Gospel of Luke 26<sup>th</sup> verse

**Glory to you O Lord**

#### **Jesus Heals the Gerasene Demoniac**

26 Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. 27 As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. 28 When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, 'What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me' — 29 for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) 30 Jesus then asked him, 'What is your name?' He said, 'Legion'; for many demons had entered him. 31 They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

32 Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. 33 Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

34 When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. 35 Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. 36 Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. 37 Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. 38 The man from

whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 'Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.' So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you O Christ**

## The Creed

*All* 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.

## Reflection

...and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature  
we can do no good thing without you,  
grant us the help of your grace...

These words from today's collect bring to my mind the BCP Collect for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany which has a similar theme: '*God who knowest us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright...*'

The first time I heard this I remember thinking “Ain’t that the truth”! However much we think we ‘have it all together’ we are frequently overwhelmed by life by the *‘frailty’* or, as today, by the *‘weakness of our mortal nature’*.

We cannot *‘always stand’*, and our doing of a *‘good thing’* is so often touched with altruism. It comes as a bit of a shock to discover that actually we are pretty powerless. This is not how we tend to think. We imagine ourselves able to cope and certainly able to do some good. Our culture promotes the positive image of self-made success; the bar set high and the pervasive ‘can do’ attitude. It is only when we ‘hit the buffers’ in life that we are forced to stop and take stock.

Our inability to stand or do good comes to sharp focus in Paul’s letter to the Galatians. They had come to faith in Christ – just by faith – their belief that through his death and resurrection their life can be changed. They were doing so well but this Gentile church has been infiltrated by those who would bring them back into the keeping of the Jewish laws in addition to their faith in Christ.

“Who has bewitched you!” Paul cries – we can sense his frustration – “you began by faith and now you want to return to the Law?” If keeping the Law was possible then it could be done – but no one keeps the Law so what benefit is there in trying.

Some people love law, or routine, or self-help plans – there is such a sense of satisfaction if you can achieve it. But in life we know that we really cannot. We do not live up to the standards we set for ourselves – let alone what God may require of us. We indeed have a ‘weak and mortal nature’ and that is just a fact.

‘The Law of the Lord is perfect converting the soul’ the psalmist writes, and indeed it is. Jesus was a practicing Jew and drew on the Torah in his teaching.

There is nothing wrong with the Law of God – except us – we cannot keep it. So why, you may ask, did God give us Law that we cannot keep – its irrational? A good question, and Paul answers it. The Law was given to guard and protect God’s people and to reveal to them the righteousness of God and their (our) position in light of it. The accumulation of Jewish Laws, embellished over time, both guarded and yet imprisoned those who tried to keep it.

Paul likens the law to a schoolmaster, helping and nurturing those in its care and yet not an end in itself. The Law was also to teach us what transgression (sin) is. Without a law there can be no illegal act. There is a law that says I must not drive through a red light – if there were no law I could freely do so.

But in Christ we are set free from ‘the Law of sin and death’ – the Law we could never keep. Instead by faith and belief in Jesus – who perfectly kept the Law – we become in right standing with God as we identify with Jesus and his righteousness and receive the Spirit as evidence of that.

Sound complicated? Think of it as a ‘trade in policy’. We trade in our brokenness and believe and place our faith in Jesus Christ, just like those Galatians did – and we receive by faith, forgiveness and a new beginning. And strangely we find ourselves working towards keeping the Law which Jesus summed up in two commands; Love God, Love your neighbour (everyone else). Never perfectly of course but nothing like it was before.

The gospel dramatically illustrates something of this theme. The poor man, considered beyond the help of anyone, is completely delivered and healed by Christ – he is set free from physical shackles, and from mental ones. This is the gospel in pictures. ‘Oh foolish Galatians...’ indeed! Why would you want to go back to trying to fix yourself when the grace of God is offered to you?

## Intercession

Gracious God,  
bring peace, justice and reconciliation throughout the world,  
that the rights of all be honoured regardless of gender, race, or creed  
and relief come to the oppressed.  
Thank you for all that is gracious in the lives of men, women and children.

Look with mercy on your Church and renew her in faith, love and service.  
Give wisdom to Bishop Martin as he leads the life of this Diocese.  
Thank you for the gift of your word,  
the grace of the sacraments  
and the fellowship of your people.

Bless this local community  
and all people in their daily life and work.  
For the young and the elderly,  
for families, and all who are alone,  
Thank you for human skill and creativity  
and all that reveals your loveliness.  
Be with those who are in need;  
for the sick, sorrowful and bereaved.  
Bless and encourage all who bring comfort, care and healing.  
Thank you for human love and friendship  
and for all that enriches our daily lives.

God of grace, may all your creation be held within your  
merciful care and protection. **Amen**

## The Lord's Prayer

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

*All* 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.

Creator God,  
you made us all in your image:  
may we discern you in all that we see,  
and serve you in all that we do;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

And the peace of God,  
Which passes all understanding,  
Keep your hearts and minds  
In the knowledge and love of God,  
And of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
And the + blessing of God almighty,  
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
Be with you, and remain with you always  
**Amen**

### **HYMN 334 NEH**

All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice:  
him serve with mirth,<sup>1</sup> his praise forth tell,  
come ye before him and rejoice

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;  
without our aid he did us make:  
we are his folk, he doth us feed,  
and for his sheep he doth us take.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
the God whom heaven and earth adore,  
from men and from the angel host  
be praise and glory evermore

O enter then his gates with praise,  
approach with joy his courts unto;  
praise, laud, and bless his Name always,  
for it is seemly so to do.

For why? the Lord our God is good,  
his mercy is for ever sure;  
his truth at all times firmly stood,  
and shall from age to age endure