



The sixth Sunday after TRINITY

7th July 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

Light's abode, celestial Salem,
vision whence true peace doth spring,
brighter than the heart can fancy,
mansion of the highest King;
oh how glorious are the praises
which of thee the prophets sing.

There no cloud nor passing vapour
dims the brightness of the air;
endless noonday, glorious noonday,
from the Sun of suns is there;
there no night brings rest from labour,
for unknown are toil and care.

There forever and forever
hallelujah is outpoured,
for unending, for unbroken
is the feast day of the Lord;
all is pure and all is holy
that within thy walls is stored.

O how glorious and resplendent,
fragile body, shalt thou be,
when endued with so much beauty,
full of health, and strong and free,
full of vigour, full of pleasure:
that shall last eternally.

Now with gladness, now with courage,
bear the burden on thee laid,
that hereafter these thy labours
may with endless gifts be paid,
and in everlasting glory
thou with joy mayst stand arrayed.

Invitations to Confession

'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty.'
So we meet Father, Son and Holy Spirit
with repentance in our hearts.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you,
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry,
and repent of all our sins.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past,
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life,
to the glory of your name.
Amen.

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.
Amen

The Collect

Merciful God,
you have prepared for those who love you
such good things as pass our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love toward you
that we, loving you in all things and above all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
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

A reading from the Old Testament Ezekiel 2. 1-5

Ezekiel's Call to Be a Prophet

2 He said to me, "Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you." **2** As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me.

3 He said: "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me to this very day. **4** The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says.' **5** And whether they listen or fail to listen—for they are a rebellious people—they will know that a prophet has been among them.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God



¹ I lift up my eyes to you,
to you who sit enthroned in heaven.² As the eyes of slaves
look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a female slave look to the hand of her
mistress,
so our eyes look to the LORD our God,
till he shows us his mercy.

³ Have mercy on us, LORD, have mercy on us,
for we have endured no end of contempt.

⁴ We have endured no end
of ridicule from the arrogant,
of contempt from the proud.

A reading from the New Testament

2 Corinthians 12. 2-10

² I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. ³ And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows— ⁴ was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell. ⁵ I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. ⁶ Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say, ⁷ or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

HYMN

O Holy Spirit, Lord of grace,
eternal fount of love,
in flame, we pray, our inmost hearts
with fire from heaven above.

As thou in bond of love dost join
the Father and the Son,
so fill us all with mutual love,
and knit our hearts in one.

All glory to the Father be,
all glory to the Son,
all glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,
while endless ages run.

The Gospel

Mark 6. 1-13

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Welcome with meekness the implanted word
That has the power to save your souls
Alleluia

The Holy Gospel is from the 6th chapter of the Gospel of Mark beginning at the 1st verse.

Glory to you O Lord

1 Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. **2** When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed.

“Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What’s this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? **3** Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph,^[a] Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.

4 Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.” **5** He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. **6** He was amazed at their lack of faith.

Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. **7** Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits.

8 These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. **9** Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. **10** Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. **11** And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.”

12 They went out and preached that people should repent. **13** They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ

Reflection

Shopping this week, I reached the end of the checkout only to realise that I did not have my bank card. It was in the pocket of the coat I wore yesterday. Embarrassing moment – but I kindly helper, after scanning my Tesco card – was happy to hold the goods while I drove home and back. All sorted out in the end but irritating – and my fault. I need to have a note stuck on the inside of the front door. A list to recite as I exit, to ensure I am ready for the day. Such is our life!

- bank card
- keys,
- phone
- emergency chocolate bar

In the gospel today Jesus sends his disciples to preach his kingdom with little other than what they wore. They are to discover their dependency on God. Just imagine that you have been invited to join the twelve apostles: you are excited about being sent out to speak of the kingdom of God. You expect to learn the master strategy from Jesus. Instead, you are told to travel light. You are to learn to depend on one thing only, the power and grace of God! It is not your abilities, rather it is the life of Jesus within you that in some way, often mysterious to us, finds a connection with the people you meet.

Most often we will not see the outcome of our conversations. But, in the words of John Newman’s prayer – ‘I am a link in the chain, a bond of connection between persons.’ Occasionally we are present when someone comes to a vibrant response to the ‘good news’ of Jesus and we rejoice with them and welcome them as a brother or sister in Christ. But before this moment there will often have been a

journey where they encountered faith in Jesus through other people along the way. This built a faith response within them.

Sometimes we might feel a bit like Ezekiel in today's reading. He is sent to a people who are not merely indifferent but 'obstinate and stubborn', his own people. Nevertheless, he is still to go and encourage them to return to their first love, the Lord God.

In a small but similar way, we recognise that not everyone will be ready to hear. We will encounter those who are uninterested, indifferent, unconcerned with what they regard as 'religious' stuff. It was the same then as now. When this happens Jesus told the disciples to shake the dust off their feet, they were not to be held back by those who are unreceptive or unwelcoming. In the same way we must not let negative 'dust' cling to us and slow us down. People are rarely argued into the kingdom of God but often won by love.

All we are required to do is to witness – just account for what we have experienced. With those we know we can also show hospitality and friendship. With others, the 'chance meeting', we can be more bold in our witness.

Crucially in all of this, is who we are. People watch us, how we live, how we respond. This is as much, if not more, than our words. Forgive me, Lord, for the times when my lifestyle distorted your gospel.

We are challenged to ask, "What holds me back?" It is rarely not having the opportunity to speak; we do that often and easily. It is not really that we "don't know what to say" although we often make that an excuse. It can be embarrassment, being thought foolish, but we just need to get over that and be obedient. Is it that sharing with others about faith is not high on our list of priorities; other things in life take our immediate attention.

'The love of Christ controls and impels us' ... Paul writes. He was prepared to put aside everything else that he might spread the Message of what Jesus has done and continues to do in the lives of those who love him.

Paul uses lots of descriptions to describe what we are doing – we are 'ambassadors' for Christ, we carry the 'fragrance' of Christ. We go as apostles, called by God, under Jesus' authority, given a message and sent out. I am sure that the disciples were unsure or even sceptical when they set off, certainly concerned as they carried so little. But only by being 'decluttered' could they learn dependency on Jesus' words and confidence in them.

When we speak, we do not do so on our own - the Holy Spirit works alongside - and the results are in God's hands. The reason why the disciples witnessed healings and had power over unclean spirits is that they were given an extension of Jesus' own power.

The disciples were allowed to take only one thing with them - a staff - something to lean on, to support them as they journeyed. We need to take a 'staff' also. Our staff is our story – it is real to us, it grounds us and gives us confidence, we speak of what we know. It can also be the companionship of those who walk with us, the word of God tried and tested, and our recourse to prayer.

Who, or what, is your staff? Where do you find supports in living out your life as a disciple today?

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

God whom we call Father, the source of all that is.
We give you thanks for our creation, preservation and all the blessings of this life.
We pray for our beautiful world and ask that you will open not only our eyes
but also our minds that we will see afresh its wonder,
our place within it, and our responsibility for its care.

Jesus, our brother, friend, and Lord.
Your life on earth showed us the Father's love
and by your death, resurrection, and ascension, you draw us into the life of the Trinity.
We pray that you will help us understand all that you have done for us.

Spirit of God you lead us into truth and change us.
We pray that you will create and increase within us the fruit of your presence.
That we may know love, joy, and peace, in our relationship with you;
that we may show patience, kindness, goodness, in our relations with others, and
faithfulness, gentleness and self-control within ourselves.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

We name before you those known to us in any need, sickness, trouble or any other adversity,
asking that they may know peace and comfort in their differing needs....
We pray for those who have died this night.
We pray for those who have died recently and for those who may be in shock as well as grief. We
remember with gratitude our own dead who are dear to us who enriched our lives, and we place them
in your love. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

And we pray for our own needs...

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

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 our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
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 us and remain with us always.
Amen

HYMN

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of Heav'n to earth come down;
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;
All thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit;
Let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Finish, then, Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in Heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

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