

Thirteenth Sunday after TRINITY 30th August 2026



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

For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love from which our birth
Over and around us lies,
Father, unto to Thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light,
Father, unto to Thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild,
Father, unto to Thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.

For each perfect gift of Thine
To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
Father, unto to Thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.

Invitation to Confession

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Absolution

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse 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

Almighty God,
who called your Church to bear witness
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;
through him who was lifted up on the cross,
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The first reading from scripture Jeremiah 15. 15-21

5 Lord, you understand;
remember me and care for me.
Avenge me on my persecutors.
You are long-suffering—do not take me away;
think of how I suffer reproach for your sake.

16 When your words came, I ate them;
they were my joy and my heart's delight,
for I bear your name,
Lord God Almighty.

17 I never sat in the company of revellers,
never made merry with them;
I sat alone because your hand was on me
and you had filled me with indignation.

18 Why is my pain unending
and my wound grievous and incurable?
You are to me like a deceptive brook,
like a spring that fails.

19 Therefore this is what the Lord says:

“If you repent, I will restore you
that you may serve me;
if you utter worthy, not worthless, words,
you will be my spokesman.

Let this people turn to you,
but you must not turn to them.

20 I will make you a wall to this people,
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you
but will not overcome you,
for I am with you
to rescue and save you,”
declares the Lord.

21 “I will save you from the hands of the wicked
and deliver you from the grasp of the cruel.”

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

1 Vindicate me, Lord,
for I have led a blameless life;
I have trusted in the Lord
and have not faltered.



2 Test me, Lord, and try me,
examine my heart and my mind;
3 for I have always been mindful of your unfailing love
and have lived in reliance on your faithfulness.
4 I do not sit with the deceitful,
nor do I associate with hypocrites.
5 I abhor the assembly of evildoers
and refuse to sit with the wicked.
6 I wash my hands in innocence,

and go about your altar, Lord,
7 proclaiming aloud your praise
and telling of all your wonderful deeds.

8 Lord, I love the house where you live,
the place where your glory dwells.
9 Do not take away my soul along with sinners,
my life with those who are bloodthirsty,
10 in whose hands are wicked schemes,
whose right hands are full of bribes.
11 I lead a blameless life;
deliver me and be merciful to me.
12 My feet stand on level ground;
in the great congregation I will praise the Lord.

The second reading from scripture
Romans 12. 9-end

9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. 20 On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

HYMN

May the grace of Christ our Savior
and the Father's boundless love,
with the Holy Spirit's favour,
rest upon us from above..

Thus may we abide in union
with each other and the Lord,
and possess in sweet communion
joys which earth cannot afford

To the God whose wisdom made us,
To the Son who set us free,
To the sanctifying Spirit,
Glory endless glory, be! Amen

The Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia. Welcome with meekness the implanted word
that has the power to save your souls.
Alleluia

The Holy Gospel is from the 16th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew beginning at the 21st verse.
Glory to you O Lord

21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. 26 What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? 27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

28 "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ

Reflection

Both Jeremiah and the writer of the psalm are feeling low. Both cry out to God and their complaint is similar; we have tried to do your will and look where it has got us. They are not timid in pouring out their complaint, their reasoning and their fears. They know they can hide nothing from God so what's the point; this is how it is. Yet both come to a place where they can find reassurance and comfort.

Someone said to me the other day “How can God be interested in my little troubles my small prayers when there is so much going on in the world?” I can understand that thought, I have it frequently when I pray for help in finding something. It can seem rather ridiculous, as if we are ‘bothering’ God with some matter in our little lives. A universal force that can create mountains of gas six trillion miles high in outer space is surely not concerned with my little griefs or desires.

All of scripture says the opposite. God who caused us to come into being is intensely concerned with us (Psalm 139). The problem is ours; our God is too small. We cannot comprehend how the creator can know all things, and care. It is beyond us. So let it be beyond us and pray anyway as things seem to happen when we do.

Both Jeremiah and the psalmist come to a resolution which brings hope and peace. There are several similar psalms where, after pouring out their complaint, they ‘*muse on times past*’ as one psalm has it. They remember how they have known the goodness of God in the very fact of their being alive. It restores balance to them.

We know from the gospels that Jesus experienced the full breadth of human emotion, he was not shielded, indeed Isaiah writing prophetically hundreds of years before of the Messiah can say, ‘Surely He has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows.’ (Isaiah 53.4)

Like Jeremiah, Jesus knows that his message is not what people want to hear. Worse, his path of obedience to the will of God will lead to suffering and death. He tries to explain this to his closest followers. No wonder Jesus reacts in shock when he hears these words from Peter. “No, this must never happen you cannot allow this to happen”.

For Peter repeats the same temptations that Jesus had already battled at the beginning of his ministry when, in the wilderness, he must face what he is called to do. Three times he must work through and reject all the less dreadful alternatives the enemy suggests, “...use your power, avoid the pain, dazzle them with wonders, make it easy.” Jesus calls Peter, ‘Satan’ – the word means ‘accuser’ – because out of his mouth comes same idea. Jesus’ words “...get behind me” is the repeated rejection of the thought. You are thinking like the world Peter. There is no alternative, easy way forward, or out, the only way is through.

Jesus is our example, someone who was focussed on God the Father in a way we cannot imagine. He was ‘tempted in every way as we are yet without sin’ and his choice of obedience to the will of God led him to the cross, but also to Resurrection.

As people of faith, we have chosen to live with this dichotomy, this contrast in our understanding. On the one hand, our lot in life is the same as everyone’s, on the other, it is life permeated with the life of the Kingdom whose foundations are joy and peace and love.

It was for the joy set before him that Jesus endured the cross. What was that joy? The opening of a way for all of us through his death and resurrection to enter, and know, a different quality of life and a joy that is a share in the divine life of God.

A peace because we are forgiven; all our failure, rebellion and rejection of God, all the mess of our lives, has all been ‘dealt with’ in, by, and through Jesus. He bore it all for our sake.

And Love because we can understand and believe that are eternally loved. In that love, you, and all whom you have ever loved - are held.

If we are Christian, the gospel text has an even deeper call on us. If we wish and desire to be followers of Jesus, we are to deny ourselves and more, we are to take up a cross, a symbol of death, and follow. For Jesus the idea of the cross was of obedience, his obedience to the Father. For us it is our obedience to him.

Jesus adds an interesting after-thought to this. He seems to offer a choice between saving and losing our lives. Trying to keep our lives separate from him we actually lose them, we lose the fulness of what they could be. By denying ourselves and 'falling into line' with Him, we actually find ourselves. We lose our little life into His greater life, which is full of richness and joy; a quality of life that goes deeper than circumstances.

What does this life look like? Paul in his epistle instructs us. It is the upside-down living where we, love rather than hate, give without having to receive, bless rather than curse, overcome evil with good.

Well, you don't need to have a belief in God you may argue, to do that. That is true but for those who do believe, our motivation is obedience to God whom we have come to know, whose love in some measure we have touched, whose character we have come to recognise through Jesus, whose expression of beautiful human-ness we want to emulate.

The Apostles' Creed

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.

Intercessions

Through the power of God, Peter saw Jesus in spirit and truth. For the power of God to be felt in our own lives, let us offer our prayers

For all peoples of the earth and powers of the world who have not yet recognised Jesus as the Christ.
For the unity of the churches, and for their common witness to the possibility of faith.

For those who struggle to believe in the earthly manifestations of Christ in the church, in the liturgy, and in daily life.

We pray for those who suffer at the hands of the church, and for those who are oppressed in the name of God.

For ourselves, our families, and our communities, who are daily faced with questions of faith.

God of creative love:

In a world of change and hope, of fear and adventure;
In human rebellion and obedience,
in our seeking and our finding;
In the common life of our society, in prosperity and need;
In your Church seeding to proclaim your goodness in words and action;
Among our friends and in our homes;
In our times of joy, in our days of sorrow;
In our strengths and triumphs, in our weakness and at our death;
In your saints in glory and on the day of Christ's coming.
Hear the petitions we place before you.
Increase our faith that we may see your works more clearly;
purify our actions that we may reveal your love more surely.

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

Almighty God,
you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength
and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

Blessing

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

Lord Jesus Christ,
You have come to us,
You are one with us,
Mary's Son;

Lord Jesus Christ,
You have come to us,
Born as one of us,
Mary's Son;

Cleansing our souls from all their sin,
Pouring your love and goodness in;
Jesus, our love for you we sing,
Living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,
Now and every day
Teach us how to pray,
Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
This in remembrance, Lord, of you:
Into our lives your power breaks through,
Living Lord.

Led out to die on Calvary,
Risen from death to set us free,
Living Lord Jesus, help us see
You are Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,
I would come to you,
Live my life for you,
Son of God.
All your commands I know are true,
Your many gifts will make me new,
Into my life your power breaks through,
Living Lord.