



The fourth Sunday after TRINITY

13th July 2025

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

Come, let us join our cheerful songs
with angels round the throne;
ten thousand thousand are their tongues,
but all their joys are one.

'Worthy the Lamb that died,' they cry,
'to be exalted thus';
'Worthy the Lamb,' our lips reply,
'for he was slain for us.'

Jesus is worthy to receive
honour and power divine;
and blessings, more than we can give,
be, Lord, for ever thine.

Let all that dwell above the sky,
and air, and earth, and seas,
conspire to lift thy glories high,
and speak thine endless praise.

The whole creation joins in one
to bless the sacred name
of him that sits upon the throne,
and to adore the Lamb.

Invitations to Confession

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden,
to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

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 forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide
we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;
grant this, heavenly Father,
for our Lord 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 Deuteronomy 30. 9-14

9 Then the Lord your God will make you most prosperous in all the work of your hands and in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your land. The Lord will again delight in you and make you prosperous, just as he delighted in your ancestors, 10 if you obey the Lord your God and keep his commands and decrees that are written in this Book of the Law and turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

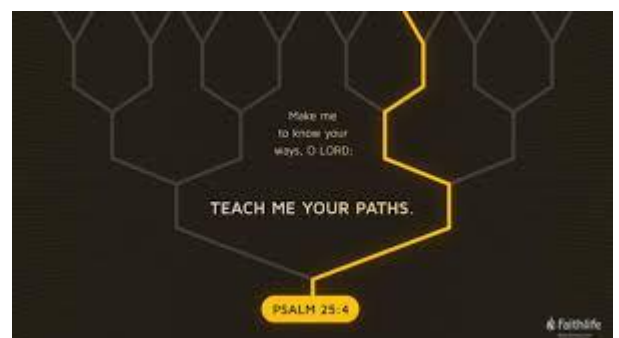
The Offer of Life or Death

11 Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. 12 It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, "Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" 13 Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, "Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" 14 No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalms 25

1. To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.
2. Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly
treacherous.



3. Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths
4. Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.
5. Remember Lord your compassion and love,
for they have been from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O Lord!
6. Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.
All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

A reading from the New Testament
1 Colossians 1. 1-14

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

2 To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4 because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people— 5 the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel 6 that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. 7 You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our[d] behalf, 8 and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, 10 so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, 12 and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you[to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

HYMN

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

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

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

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

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

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 Luke 10. 25-37
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 10th chapter of the Gospel of Luke beginning at the 25th verse.
Glory to you O Lord

25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

26 "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

27 He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'"

28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?"

30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii[e] and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

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

Reflection

The parable of the good Samaritan is so well known that you might imagine it was in all four gospels. But in fact, only Luke recounts this incident. It is typical of his work. Luke is the only non-Jewish writer in the New Testament. He is not interested in proving Jesus is the Messiah from Jewish prophecy like

Matthew. Luke is a doctor, and he is interested in people. This parable, and that of the 'Prodigal Son', also only in Luke, give us vivid, human stories that catch our attention.

A lawyer (the man in charge of how things ought to be: the Law) asked Jesus what he had to do to be saved. Note that he asked it to test Jesus. Was he really interested in the reply? Or was this another occasion when the authorities are trying to trip Jesus up, catch him out, give him a question the answer to which will expose his position, politically, socially, theologically? Expose a weakness in knowledge of the Jewish Law or radical tendencies, or even madness.

Jesus knew the man already knew the rules, so he asked what was in the Law. The lawyer answered correctly, as lawyers are supposed to, and Jesus says, "Do that and you will live." Which should have really ended the conversation, but like a dog with a bone, the Lawyer is not going to leave it there. "Ah...but who is my neighbour?" Now they are sure to find him out. In their controlled world there were definite division between who was 'in' and who was 'out'. We can imagine the crowd, nodding and smiling acknowledging the Lawyer's astuteness.

But Jesus is also smart. He is not going to get drawn into a discussion about the Law with a Lawyer. So he tells a story – a parable.

Parables can bypass our usual defences and convince us of truths we have been unable to see or hear because of the way that we hear. We filter the world through a particular view which obscures and distorts. We think we see clearly and understand but – we don't.

Parables tell us we are wrong about the way we see the world. They tell us that what we always thought was true is not, but they do not tell us what is true. That's important. We have to figure it out for ourselves. It is like wearing distorted lenses, or worse trying to look through binoculars with the lens covers still on – we just don't see.

Parables can free us in a way that instruction, knowledge, advice, cannot. All of that can just be another distorting lens. Jesus tells a story which if we really hear it – let it sink into us, question us, correct us, clear our vision and understanding – can be transformative. Which is its intention. A parable is able to correct stories about the world and ourselves that we have misunderstood, misinterpreted.

The Lawyer already knew the Law, what to 'do', but Jesus had to break down his world view, his distortion. If he had told the story and the Priest or the Levite helped the man, that would only have reinforced the Lawyer's tight, constricted, defined view of the world. "Yes, that's good advice, we Lawyers and Priests and Scribes etc. we have got it right, see what a good example we set etc."

But Jesus crashes right through this and leaves it with a question.

If you decide who you will help and who is your neighbour then your circle is very small. Because, after all, we must be sensible and careful for there is great scarcity. Look after your own. But, if you were the man in the ditch, it's all reversed. Who would help you if you were in trouble? You would be grateful for help from anyone. Jesus gives us the victim's view. Jesus is changing our perception; he is redefining our relationships for everyone in the world. He destroys our notion of neighbour to teach us that we are all connected, sisters and brothers with one Heavenly Father. If I cannot even see you as a neighbour, I cannot be your sister. The one precedes the other.

Hearing and seeing clearly enables us to break out of much painful and destructive behaviour and the feelings that lead to that behaviour.

We are not told what we should do. We are only left with Jesus' words – "Let those who have ears to hear ...and eyes to see..."

The creed

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven on earth is named.
We believe in God the son
who lives in our heart through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God father, Son and Holy Spirit
Amen

Intercessions

Let us pray to the Father through his Son
who suffered on the cross for the world's redemption.

Fill with your Spirit Christ's broken body, the Church ...
Bless those who lead the Church with wisdom...
draw your people close to you.

Look in your mercy upon the world you love.
Bring healing by the wounds of Christ
to all who are weighed down by pain and injustice ...
Be present with those in prison, refugees, those trafficked for gain
the deserted, orphaned, unnoticed and unwanted.
Father, in pity and mercy bring light in their darkness.
For all relief agencies we ask your protection and continued help.

For those known to us who suffer need, sorrow, trouble, or sickness ...
We name them in your love – and leave them there believing you know and care.
Help the lonely and the betrayed, the suffering and the dying,
Welcome into your presence all who have left this world in your friendship ...
According to your promises, bring them with all who have ever loved you
to share in all the benefits of Christ's death and resurrection.

Let us commend the world, for which Christ prays,
to the mercy and protection of God.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.
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

Thy hand, O God, has guided
thy flock, from age to age;
their wondrous tale is written,
full clear, on every page;
thy people owned thy goodness,
and we their deeds record;
and both of this bear witness;
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Thy heralds brought glad tidings
to greatest as to least;
they bade men rise, and hasten
to share the great King's feast;
and this was all their teaching,
in every deed and word,
to all alike proclaiming
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

When shadows thick were falling,
and all seemed sunk in night,
thou, Lord, didst send thy servants,
thy chosen sons of light.
On them and on thy people
thy plenteous grace was poured,
and this was still their message,
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Through many a day of darkness,
through many a scene of strife,
the faithful few fought bravely,
to guard the nation's life.
Their gospel of redemption,
sin pardoned, man restored,
was all in this enfolded:
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

And we, shall we be faithless?
shall hearts fail, hands hang down?
shall we evade the conflict,
and cast away our crown?
Not so: in God's deep counsels
some better thing is stored;
we will maintain, unflinching,
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Thy mercy will not fail us,
nor leave thy work undone;
with thy right hand to help us,
thy victory shall be won;
and then, by all creation,
thy name shall be adored,
and this shall be their anthem:
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.