

Church of St Leonard, Southminster
Church of St Lawrence and All Saints, Steeple
Sunday 23rd October 2022
Last Sunday after Trinity

Reading 1: 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18

Gospel: Luke 18: 9-14

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

And also with you.

Hymn: As we are gathered Jesus is here
(Click link) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZhhXQ16UTQ>

Hymn: Let there be live shared among us
(Click link) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5mvs6rMJuwC>

Invitation to Confession:

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit.
Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness,
all slander and malice and confess our sins to God our redeemer.

Confession:

Lord God, we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing
and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Absolution:

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by His Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.
Blessed be the Lord
for he has heard the voice of our prayer;
therefore shall our hearts dance for joy
and in our song will we praise our God.

Reading 1: 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18

For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. ¹⁶ At my first defence, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. ¹⁷ But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Luke 18: 9-14

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ ¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ ¹⁴ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

Hymn: All my days (beautiful Saviour)
(Click link) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-pvu1PATUQQ>

Talk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMEJ6aJoDog> (Click link)

The Creed:

Let us declare our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,

and to all the apostles:
this we have received,
and this we believe.

Amen.

cf 1 Corinthians 15.3-7

Hymn: All my hope on God is founded

(Click link) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YaP7CNrqF_k

Prayers of Intercession:

Heavenly Father, we have been reminded this morning how Paul suffered but remained hopeful, so we ask that you enable us - and others worldwide - to remain hopeful in whatever circumstances life brings. We also ask that you prevent us from boasting, even when we think we are doing what is right. Give us humility and guide us to share your love and good news to everyone around us so that your message can reach people and they may then respond to you.

**Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.**

We seek your blessing on our plans for Remembrance and Christmas for working in partnership with local groups and our community. We pray for Southminster's Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal that brings offerings towards Christmas celebrations for children who would otherwise have nothing. Please also bless other events such as our Christingle and Carol Services so that more people can realise that it is about Jesus rather than just about spending money. Please help us to support Dengie Food Pantry and the Dengie Hubs planned by Maldon District Council with other agencies in partnership with our churches to offer warm spaces through the winter months with advice and give aways for residents – the first of these is at the Memorial Hall in Southminster this Tuesday at 11am-1pm and the next is in Steeple later in November.

**Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.**

We thank you, Father, for our local Church and its worship leaders including Peter, Jacqui, Norman, Jenny, Brenda and Karen. On this Sunday, often known as Bible Sunday, we pray for everyone's use of the Bible so that the relevance of its stories can be clear today. We give thanks for Bishop John who will be leaving us to become Bishop of Liverpool early next year. Please bring us a new Bishop of Bradwell who will move us forward together in our discipleship and mission.

**Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.**

Wider afield we pray for our politicians who are struggling to lead our nation. Please enable them to make decisions which will lead us forward together; enable them to remember the needs of the poor as well as the rich and to provide reliable services which will serve everyone. As we all begin to accept the climate crisis, even if it not

affecting us personally, we pray that governments will make decisions which will reduce the problem for the sake of the whole of creation - human and environmental, and that we will be able to play our part in providing a healthy and ecologically safe world.

**Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.**

Even wider afield we pray for other places in the world. Please bring the situation in Ukraine to a peaceful end. Please provide support for people suffering from the recent floods, storms, droughts and irresponsible government. Please enable aid agencies to play their part and prompt the richer countries to support them in their never-ending work.

**Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.**

Finally, today, we pray for all those known to us who are struggling with their health problems and those who are caring for them. Similarly, we pray for those who are grieving after the loss of a loved one, whether it was very recent or some time ago. We know you never desert us so may everyone, at every stage of life, be aware of your loving presence.

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Collect:

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.

The Lord's Prayer:

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 forever.

Amen.

*Let us pause for a moment to bring ourselves
and all that we offer to God and give Him thanks.*

Hymn: How Great Thou Art

(Click link) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cc0QVWzCv9k>

Blessing:

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 among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ.

Amen.