

**Morning Worship**  
**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2021**  
**17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**Reading 1:** Esther 7: 1 – 6, 9- 10; 9: 20 – 22

**Psalm:** 124

**Gospel:** Mark 9: 38 – end

**Epistle:** James 5: 13 - end

**Opening prayer:**

God of our days and years,  
we set this time apart for you.  
Form us in the likeness of Christ  
so that our lives may glorify you. Amen.

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

This is the day that the Lord has made.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Psalm: 124**

If it had not been the LORD who was on our side  
—let Israel now say—  
<sup>2</sup> if it had not been the LORD who was on our side,  
when our enemies attacked us,  
<sup>3</sup> then they would have swallowed us up alive,  
when their anger was kindled against us;  
<sup>4</sup> then the flood would have swept us away,  
the torrent would have gone over us;  
<sup>5</sup> then over us would have gone  
the raging waters.  
<sup>6</sup> Blessed be the LORD,  
who has not given us  
as prey to their teeth.  
<sup>7</sup> We have escaped like a bird  
from the snare of the fowlers;  
the snare is broken,  
and we have escaped.  
<sup>8</sup> Our help is in the name of the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.

**Song: Behold Our God** (*click link*)

<https://youtu.be/Qx9-0v9m2Sg>

**Invitation to Confession:**

Seeing we have a great high priest  
who has passed into the heavens,  
Jesus the Son of God,  
let us draw near with a true heart,  
in full assurance of faith,  
and make our confession to our heavenly Father

**Confession:**

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 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. Amen.

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: Esther 7: 1 – 6, 9- 10; 9: 20 – 22**

So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. <sup>2</sup> On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, 'What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.' <sup>3</sup> Then Queen Esther answered, 'If I have won your favour, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. <sup>4</sup> For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.'<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>5</sup> Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, 'Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?' <sup>6</sup> Esther said, 'A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!' Then

Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, 'Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high.' And the king said, 'Hang him on that.' <sup>10</sup> So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, <sup>21</sup> enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, <sup>22</sup> as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

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

**Epistle: James 5: 13 – end**

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup> Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. <sup>17</sup> Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup> Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

<sup>19</sup> My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, <sup>20</sup> you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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

**Gospel: Mark 9: 38 – end**

<sup>38</sup> John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' <sup>39</sup> But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup> Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup> For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

## **Temptations to Sin**

<sup>42</sup> 'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup> If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire <sup>45</sup> And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into

hell. <sup>47</sup> And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup> where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

<sup>49</sup> 'For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup> Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

*This is the gospel of the Lord.*

*Praise be to you, O Christ.*

*(Talk: To Follow Soon)*

**Song: Hope Has A Name** (*click link*)

<https://youtu.be/jTYsapLrOto>

*Let us declare our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

### **The 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.

### **Prayers of Intercession**

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.  
Jesus, light of the world,  
bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations ...  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, bread of life,  
give food to the hungry ...  
and nourish us all with your word.  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,  
be with us and all who follow you in the way ...  
Deepen our appreciation of your truth  
and fill us with your life.  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep,  
recover the straggler,  
bind up the injured,  
strengthen the sick  
and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,  
we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you ...  
Raise us with them to eternal life.  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
in your mercy, hear us,  
accept our prayers, and be with us always.  
Amen.

***Silence is kept.***

**Collect:**

Almighty God,  
you have made us for yourself,  
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:  
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,  
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city  
where we shall see you face to face;  
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.

**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  
and 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.*

**Song: Raise A Hallelujah** (*click link*)

<https://youtu.be/G2XtRuPfaAU>

### **Blessing:**

The love of the Lord Jesus  
draw you to Himself,  
the power of the Lord Jesus  
strengthen you in His service,  
the joy of the Lord Jesus  
fill your hearts.....

.....and the blessing of God almighty;  
Father Son and Holy Spirit,  
be with us, and remain with us  
and all those whom we love,  
now and forever.  
Amen.

*As we come to the end of this service we can fellowship with each other in Spirit, with tea, coffee  
and biscuits, and continuing to pray for each other.*

*Post something on the Facebook page to bless others.*