

Sunday 17th September 2023

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Reading 1: Romans 14: 1 - 12

Gospel: Matthew 18: 21 - 35

We enter into God's presence to give Him praise.

Acclamation

You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power.
For you have created all things,
and by your will they have their being.
To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever. Amen.

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

Psalm: 114

When Israel went out from Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,
² Judah became God's sanctuary,
Israel his dominion.
³ The sea looked and fled;
Jordan turned back.
⁴ The mountains skipped like rams,
the hills like lambs.
⁵ Why is it, O sea, that you flee?
O Jordan, that you turn back?
⁶ O mountains, that you skip like rams?
O hills, like lambs?
⁷ Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the LORD,
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
⁸ who turns the rock into a pool of water,
the flint into a spring of water.

Song: (*click link*) *Be Still for the Presence of the Lord*
https://youtu.be/Vep_Ty4Zx1o?list=RDVep_Ty4Zx1o

Invitation to Confession:

The Spirit of the Lord fills the world

and knows our every word and deed.
Let us then open ourselves to the Lord
and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Confession:

Almighty God,
long-suffering and of great goodness:
I confess to you,
I confess with my whole heart
my neglect and forgetfulness of your
commandments,
my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking;
the hurts I have done to others,
and the good I have left undone.
O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you;
and raise me to newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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.

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: Romans 14: 1 - 12 Do Not Judge Another

14 Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.’

¹² So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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

Gospel: Matthew 18 : 21 - 35 Forgiveness

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ ²² Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

²³ ‘For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.” ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, “Pay what you owe.” Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you.” ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, “You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?” ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.

This is the gospel of the Lord. Praise be to you, O Christ.

Talk: (click link) <https://youtu.be/-PbgRrBXwd4>

Hymn: The Lord has led forth His people with praise. <https://youtu.be/TyUoUQzr88c>

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

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

Father God we come before You today as people of power and praise. Thank you Father for the gift of Your Holy Spirit who imparts Your power to us and through us. Help us together as Your body of people here today to grow together, to build on the strengths and gifts You give us to bring in Your Kingdom in our own locality and beyond.

Father we learn from Your Word that Nehemiah was instrumental in the practical re-building of the broken-down walls of Jerusalem often against much opposition. Help us Father when we come up against opposition, when we try to build or rebuild relationships with people, relationships that may have broken down. Also please help us to trust You Father when we try to implement a new venture, to step out into the unknown always making sure we have people to support us in prayer and practically if needed.

We also read Father that Nehemiah also had a real heart for those who had little in their lives especially the poor who had barely enough to eat. Help us Father to be mindful of what we have that we can share and remind us that all things come from you and out of your goodness to us please work through us to help others.

Lord in Your Mercy..... Hear our prayer

Thankyou Father God for continuing to build your church and for joining our hearts so that we work together to glorify your name. Thankyou for the gifts and talents you give each one of us, each one precious to you. Father as a church of people we are mindful of your Word which tells us to rejoice with those who rejoice and to mourn with those who mourn. We especially ask for your real presence for those known to us who mourn the loss of a loved one and for those going through very difficult times. Father you have answered so many of our prayers to you, we have seen and heard of some amazing healings in body, mind and Spirit for which we are really thankful, but we recognise that there is still often a lot of sadness and sickness to cope with. Let us lift our concerns to the Lord and await His peace and grace and his healing in his time.

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

Father God, we know that because of sin we became lost and Jesus sought us and saved us. He rescued us by freeing us from sin and evil. He redeemed us, He bought us back at the ultimate price of paying with His life and taking all our sins upon Himself on the cross. You, Father, had built the world through Him and for Him and in Him all things hold together. Forgive us Father that the world has in so many ways broken down but thank you that You have chosen us to be your labourers, as living stones, to build Your church and always to be a people of power and praise.

Above all Father God help us to remember that there is power in the name of Jesus and to speak His name as often as we can in our witness for you where we live and in the wider world and wherever you may send us to bring in Your Kingdom.

Merciful Father
Accept these prayers
For the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Collect:

Lord God, defend your Church from all false teaching and give to your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silence is kept.

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.

Song: (*click link*) To God be the glory - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vbGFupxwu0>

Blessing:

May God the Father,
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen us to walk with Him in his risen life.....

.....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.