

Sunday 21st 2023

7th Sunday after Trinity

Reading 1: Acts 1: 6 - 14

Psalm: 68: 1 - 10

Gospel: John 17: 1 - 11

Alleluia! Christ is Risen
He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

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

Psalm: 68: 1 – 10

Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered;
let those who hate him flee before him.
² As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;
as wax melts before the fire,
let the wicked perish before God.
³ But let the righteous be joyful;
let them exult before God;
let them be jubilant with joy.
⁴ Sing to God, sing praises to his name;
lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds
his name is the LORD—
be exultant before him.
⁵ Father of orphans and protector of widows
is God in his holy habitation.
⁶ God gives the desolate a home to live in;
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,
but the rebellious live in a parched land.
⁷ O God, when you went out before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,
⁸ the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
⁹ Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad;
you restored your heritage when it languished;
¹⁰ your flock found a dwelling in it;
in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

Glory to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning, is now
and shall be forever. Amen.

Song: (*click link*) Alleluia, Sing to Jesus https://youtu.be/QpraOZ0_hkw

Invitation to Confession:

The word of God is living and active.
It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
All is open and laid bare before the eyes of him
to whom we give account.
We confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Confession:

O King enthroned on high,
filling the earth with your glory:
holy is your name,
Lord God almighty.
In our sinfulness we cry to you
to take our guilt away,
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Absolution:

May the Father forgive us
by the death of his Son
and strengthen us to live
in the power of the Spirit
all our days.
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: Acts 1: 6 – 14

The Ascension of Jesus

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' ⁷ He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards

heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

Gospel: John 17: 1 – 11

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

¹⁷ After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

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

Talk: (click link) <https://youtu.be/Zd3jocZgoXk>

Song: Be Thou my Vision <https://youtu.be/hJ41EFfdEqk>

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

Let us pray for the church and for the world and let us thank God for his goodness.

Thankyou Father God that through your son Jesus you share your life with our life. We are so thankful that Jesus constantly prays for us and He treasures all those You have called by name. We pray for all those who don't yet know you that you will constantly draw them closer to you and open their hearts to receive Jesus into their lives and to begin a new life with Him.

We thank you Father God for all your provision for us, we are so fortunate compared to so many in your world. Heavenly Father, thankyou that you give us grace to share your love with one another. Please bless our families and friends, those closest to us, unknown strangers and those we are yet to meet.

Father we are so often troubled by people who are sick and desperate, our hearts go out to those who feel useless and unwanted, those without homes and jobs or enough food, those afflicted by floods, wars and many other global pressures. Thankyou that we are surrounded by beautiful countryside and most of us have gardens and enjoy the flowers and green grass, never let us forget those who don't have this joy in their lives and please lead us to share where we can.

Lord in Your mercy Hear our prayer

Father God:

We pray for those who are suffering from depression, anxiety, mental health problems. We think of the young children known to us who are sitting exams at this time, hearing on the news how some have struggled with their SATS tests recently. Please hear our prayers for them and guide us to help and encourage them where we can. We pray also for the teachers especially at our local school and thank you for the good working partnership we as a church have with them.

We also think and pray today for those who have lost loved ones and we lift in our hearts those people known to us who need uplifting at this time through bereavement or health issues. May you be extra close to them with your love and peace.

Lord in your mercyhear our prayer

Father God as we so often only hear through the media of the not so good things in the world please open our eyes daily to see your goodness in this world, let us feed on the positive and not the negative and let us be vehicles of bringing joy and good news into people's lives all done in the power of Your Holy Spirit and for Your glory.

And so let us pray the following words together:

As we plan and make our decisions:

God be our way

As we learn and ask questions

God be our truth

As we grow and as we change

God be our life. Amen.

Silence is kept.

Collect:

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: (click link) Jesus is King <https://youtu.be/rAYq1wLSHi0>

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.