

Sunday 30th July 2023

Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Heroe of Faith Sermon Series: Deborah

Reading: Judges 4. 1-16

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

And also with you.

Song: (*click link*) Come, now is the time to worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4kZRUj4yog>

Psalm 128

- ¹ Happy is everyone who fears the LORD,
who walks in his ways.
² You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands;
you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.
³ Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots
around your table.
⁴ Thus shall the man be blessed
who fears the LORD.
⁵ The LORD bless you from Zion.
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life.
⁶ May you see your children's children.
Peace be upon Israel!

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.

Song: (*click link*) Speak O Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-sBck5t2tw>

We listen to the word of God.

Reading 1: Judges 4:1-16

Deborah and Barak

⁴ The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died.

² So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim.

³ Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly for twenty years.

⁴ At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel.

⁵ She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgement.

⁶ She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, 'The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, "Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun.

⁷ I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand."

⁸ Barak said to her, 'If you will go with me, I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go.' ⁹ And she said, 'I will surely go with you; nevertheless,

the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.' Then Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh.

¹⁰ Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; and ten thousand warriors went up behind him; and Deborah went up with him.

¹¹ Now Heber the Kenite had separated from the other Kenites, that is, the descendants of Hobab the father-in-law of Moses, and had encamped as far away as Elon-bezaananim, which is near Kedesh.

¹² When Sisera was told that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor,

¹³ Sisera called out all his chariots, nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the troops who were with him, from Harosheth-ha-goiim to the Wadi Kishon.

¹⁴ Then Deborah said to Barak, 'Up! For this is the day on which the LORD has given Sisera into your hand. The LORD is indeed going out before you.' So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with ten thousand warriors following him.

¹⁵ And the LORD threw Sisera and all his chariots and all his army into a panic before Barak; Sisera got down from his chariot and fled away on foot, ¹⁶ while Barak pursued the chariots and the army to Harosheth-ha-goiim. All the army of Sisera fell by the sword; no one was left.

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

Talk: (click link) https://youtu.be/iH5HZJ4_BjA

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of 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*

Song: (click link) Be Thou my Vision
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DORM8ttY1ws>

Prayers of Intercession

Lord of all creation:
teach us your ways.

Father, we thank
for all who have helped us to pray
and to grasp something of your great love and power.
We ask your blessing and empowering
for all who teach and minister in your name;
we ask for our Sunday worship to be an overflowing
of our daily walk with you,
an expression of our deepening love.

Lord of all creation:
teach us your ways.

Father, we thank you for the heroes of the Old Testament. Thank you that in a time of constant extreme violence, you were present in that time, intervening, making yourself known, and laying the foundations for the Prince of peace to come with a new kingdom that would begin to turn the world towards peace and love.

Lord of all creation:
teach us your ways.

Father, we thank your for the beauty and diversity of the created world we inhabit.
We ask for the wisdom to tend it carefully,
respecting the natural laws and sharing the resources,
listening to the weak as well as the strident,

the poor as well as the affluent and powerful.

Lord of all creation:
teach us your ways.

Father, we thank you
for the candour and innocence of the very young,
and for the joy of friendship;
for all with whom we share our daily life,
and those we love but seldom meet.
We ask for hearts that are skilled in listening,
so that we discern and respond to the real agendas,
and remember that a conversation is a two-way event.

Lord of all creation:
teach us your ways.

Father, we thank you
for the advances in medical knowledge
and the hope of new treatments for many diseases.
We pray for all in medical research
and all whose lives are crippled or disadvantaged
by illness, frailty or damage.
Give comfort and reassurance,
healing, wholeness and peace.

Lord of all creation:
teach us your ways.

Father, we call to mind
all those we have known and loved
who lived among us and now have died.
We pray for all who made that journey unnoticed and alone.
We ask that they may all know your mercy
and the everlasting peace and joy of heaven.

Lord of all creation:
teach us your ways.

Father, we thank you for your wisdom and truth,
your understanding and generosity.
We acknowledge our total dependence on you,
and praise you for providing us with all we need.

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

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

Silence is kept.

The Collect:

Lord God,
your Son left the riches of heaven
and became poor for our sake:
when we prosper save us from pride,
when we are needy save us from despair,
that we may trust in you alone;
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.*

Blessing:

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,
defend you on every side,
and guide you in truth and peace ...
... 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.

Song: (*click link*) My Jesus, My Saviour
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jABSW-UuT1o>