

**Sunday 9 October 2022**

# The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity



**The River Ouse near Ely**  
© 'Veronica of the Fens'

**Sermon** © Revd Dr Paul Monk.

**Prayers of intercession** © Spirituality and Practice (adapted).

**Liturgy** © 2000 The Archbishops' Council.

**Bible readings** © the publishers of the NRSV translation.

The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration appear at the end.

All the hymns are hosted on YouTube. Please click on the links to hear them.

To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page,  
<http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

## Introduction and welcome

**HYMN 1** [Come and see the King of Love](#) (click on this link to hear the hymn)

## The Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

**All Amen.**

The Lord be with you

**All And also with you.**

## The Preparation

**All Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.’

And the second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**All Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Therefore, let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,  
firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments  
and to live in love and peace with all.

**All** Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** Amen.

## **The Gloria**

This Gloria is sung to the tune of 'Cwm Rhondda'. Click [here](#) for the tune.

**All** Glory be to God in Heaven,  
Songs of joy and peace we bring,  
Thankful hearts and voices raising,  
To creation's Lord we sing.  
Lord we thank you, Lord we praise you,  
Glory be to God our King:  
Glory be to God our King.

Lamb of God, who on our shoulders,  
Bore the load of this world's sin;  
Only Son of God the Father,  
You have brought us peace within.  
Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,  
Now your glorious reign begin:  
Now your glorious reign begin.

**You O Son of God are Holy,  
You we praise with one accord.  
None in heav'n or earth is like you,  
Only you are Christ the Lord.  
With the Father and the Spirit,  
Ever worshipped and adored:  
Ever worshipped and adored.**

## **The Collect for the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**

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.

**All Amen.**

## **First reading**

A reading from the Second Book of Kings

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favour with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, 'If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.'

When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, 'Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me.' But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, 'Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel.'

So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, 'Go, wash in the Jordan seven

times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean.’ But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, ‘I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?’ He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, ‘Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, “Wash, and be clean”?’ So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, ‘Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel.’

*2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

## **Second reading**

A reading from St Paul’s Second Letter to Timothy

Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving in the army gets entangled in everyday affairs; the soldier’s aim is to please the enlisting officer. And in the case of an athlete, no one is crowned without competing according to the rules. It is the farmer who does the work who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in all things.

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth. *2 Timothy 2:3-15*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

HYMN 2 [Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost](#)[\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

## Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**All    Glory to you O Lord.**

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' Then he said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.' *Luke 17:11-19*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All    Praise to you O Christ.**

## Sermon

At the time of Jesus, the name 'leprosy' was used to describe a wide range of skin conditions. Some, like the disease we call leprosy today, were devastating in their impact on a human body, but were slow acting, and entirely non-contagious. Others were less serious in a medical sense, but were contagious. The problem was that everyone with a white, flaky skin condition was treated in the same way. Think of our medieval image of a man with a bell walking before a snaking line of lepers, shouting 'unclean!' as they attempt to alert those in the village to get out of the way.

It means that any person with a skin condition worse than dandruff suffered twice: they suffered from the medical condition itself but, usually far worse, they suffered social exclusion. They had to leave their family, their job and, indeed, society itself. They were banished, ostracised, and became destitute and lonely. Many would have developed devastating mental illnesses in response.

These latter points are important because the effects of the 'cure'—banishing a sufferer—was probably worse than the medical condition itself. For that reason, the point of today's two miracles is therefore not the reversal of a health mishap. It's that people are given back society and friendships. They are given back the apparatus of humanity. Stated a different way, the healing goes beyond a treatment for a defective human body.

Every human being on planet Earth is a composite of body, mind, and spirit. Modern medicine is today proving what most have always suspected: these three aspects of self are closely interlinked. It means that when one of those three is damaged in any way, it usually affects the other two, with devastating consequences.

In developing countries, where leprosy is still often a crippling disease, one of the greatest disabilities caused by the disease is the lack of hope. The sufferer is banished and has no job, no human contact and therefore no friends. They lose their faith because all true faiths worth following are social, and they're forbidden from entering that practising society. In short, they lose everything on earth but also everything in heaven as well. Therefore, when Jesus healed the ten lepers, he was not just fixing their bodies but was rebooting their souls as well.

There is essentially no leprosy in Britain today, except possibly for cases where people come from abroad to seek good medical treatment. But our country has millions of people suffering from a sense of 'social leprosy'—people regarded as untouchable. Much of Britain's media and sadly also some of our top politicians seem to delight in whipping up hatred and fear. They tell us to think of asylum seekers and refugees as non-people, as lepers. During the past week, the Home Secretary said it was her 'dream' to cleanse the country of such folk and encouraged us to think of folk on benefits as people to be shunned and beneath contempt, as lepers. The media often encourage us to hate people of different faith, ethnicity, or culture, and to distance ourselves from them, to think of them as somehow 'lesser', to treat them as lepers were treated in Jesus' day. Into that context, today's Bible readings tell us that God loves them, *and therefore so should we*.

Any Christianity worth the name will always seek to follow Jesus. As the wristbands say, 'What would Jesus do?' We are a church and it's our job, as individuals and as a group, to heal the people our society wants to treat as 'lepers'. It's our job—*all of us*—to bring back hope and reintroduce a sense of society and family for those excluded in our society who feel excluded. We are in the business of healing bodies, minds, and spirits. We must never treat other fellow human beings as 'lepers' but, rather, treat them as Jesus did, with radical inclusivity.

So in what ways do we regard others as 'lepers'? It's generally when we refuse to include others because we fear being 'contaminated' by them, usually because they are different in some way. The most obvious ways in which they differ include age, gender, sexuality, creed or ethnicity, or the many consequences of poverty. In short, they are not 'like us'—or at least, not like the 'me' that I think of myself as being.

In summary, as we come before the Lord, we need to remember that He accepts all of us regardless of background. If Jesus was willing to heal a despised Samaritan, then we must at the least accept people made in the image of God. As Jesus said, we are to love our neighbour as ourselves. Our destiny may depend on it. Let us pray:

Holy Trinity,  
you are neither monarch nor monologue  
but an eternal harmony  
of gift and response:  
through the Uncreated Word  
and the Spirit of Truth  
include us and all creation  
in your extravagant love;  
through the Wisdom of God,  
who raises her voice  
to call us to life.  
Amen. *Liturgy NZ*

## The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
the source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## Prayers of intercession

Eternal God, whose image lies in the hearts of all people,  
We live among peoples whose ways are different from ours,  
Whose faiths are foreign to us,  
Whose tongues are unintelligible to us.



Help us to remember that you love all people with your great love,  
That all religion is an attempt to respond to you,  
That the yearnings of other hearts are much like  
our own and are known to you.

Help us to recognize you in the words of truth, the things of beauty,  
The actions of love about us.

We pray through Christ,  
who is a stranger to no one land more than another,  
And to every land no less than to another.

**All Amen**

For a longer set of inclusive intercessions, please go to [Connect Us](#).

Merciful Father,

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

## **The peace**

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father.  
Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace.  
Peace from the Holy Spirit, the Life-giver

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

**All And also with you.**

**HYMN 3 Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks!** (click on this link to hear the hymn)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

## **The Dismissal**

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 the Almighty,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be with you now and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

|               |  |                     |
|---------------|--|---------------------|
| <b>HYMN 4</b> | <b>Brother sister, let me serve you</b>            | (please click here) |
|               | <b>Colours of day</b>                              | (please click here) |
|               | <b>When I needed a neighbour</b>                   | (please click here) |
|               | <b>Jesus Christ is waiting</b>                     | (please click here) |
|               | <b>Whatever you do (to the least of my people)</b> | (please click here) |

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All** In the name of Christ. Amen.

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Father, you made the world and love your creation.  
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.  
His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.  
And so we gladly thank you,  
with saints and angels praising you, and saying,

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All 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 for ever. Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**All Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ

which he gave for you,

and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,

and feed on him in your hearts

by faith with thanksgiving.

**All** We do not presume  
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy  
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.  
But you are the same Lord  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him,  
and he in us.  
Amen.

Communion is distributed.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Lord, we pray that your grace  
may always precede and follow us,  
and make us continually to be given to all good works;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** Amen

**All** Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work  
to your praise and glory.  
Amen.