

Sunday 18 June 2023

The Second Sunday after Trinity



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Sermon © Gareth Farnon-Jones.

Liturgy © 2000 The Archbishops' Council.

Prayers of intercession based on an extract of *Canticle of the Sun* © CAFOD

Bible readings © the publishers of the NRSV translation.

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

The hymn can be accessed via a YouTube link. Please click on the links.

To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page,

<http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

Introduction and welcome

HYMN 1 [Praise to the holiest in the height](#)

([please click here](#))

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 version of the 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.

**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 Second Sunday after Trinity

Lord, you have taught us
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:
send your Holy Spirit
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake,
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 Moses called Exodus

They had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession

out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.'

So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. The people all answered as one: 'Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do.' Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord. *Exodus 19:2-8a*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. *Romans 5:1-8*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 2 [Father, hear the prayer we offer](#) (click on this link to hear the hymn)

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

All Glory to you O Lord.

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples,

‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.’

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: ‘Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, “The kingdom of heaven has come near.” Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.’ *Matthew 9:35—10:8*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

When I was much younger, I had to write an essay every Sunday as part of my school homework. I really hated having to spend all of Sunday afternoon doing this and, to be honest, I was never very good at writing them. Many years later I’m still writing essays, and guess what? I’m still not very good at them.

Recently I had to write about the difference and reasons for worshipping in a church and not at home. After all, if God is everywhere, surely, He can be in my front room or my kitchen, so why come to church at all?

Now, because of the theological training that I’m currently doing I know that worshipping in church is called ‘corporate worship’ as opposed to personal worship which is something that you can do on your own.

Now, I know that the term ‘corporate worship’ sounds very bland and generic but that’s how it’s known, this morning we are all gathered here participating in ‘corporate worship’.

So, I had been pondering how to start this essay and how to describe what to me, are the differences. I really wasn’t getting far. And then, few weeks ago I was sat in a pew at Holy Trinity before the corporate worship on a Sunday morning and I had my head bowed and was asking God to open my eyes to the real differences between the two types of worship. As I sat there, I couldn’t help but overhear people coming in and greeting each other. One such conversation went

something like this, 'how are you?', 'Oh, I'm fine thank you how about yourself?' 'Well, I've turned up, well I've turned up for the Lord actually'.

That was it. In that simple greeting lies the reason that we are here this morning, We have turned up for the Lord!

What I would like to talk to you about then is this: what do we do in church? Why do we come here to worship? Why have we gathered together as one people? You can follow the gist of what I'm going to say by looking at the service sheet and seeing how our act of worship unfolds.

Let's, in the words of the song, 'Start at the very beginning'. Firstly, we are greeted in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the very Trinity has welcomed us individually to this place. That's not a bad start is it.

Next, we pray to God, telling Him that our hearts are open, we are preparing ourselves to be in the very presence of the Lord.

We then offer to God a prayer of penitence; we ask that God forgives our weaknesses and our sins. We know that God will forgive us if we truly repent, if we really, really mean it. We follow this remarkable act of forgiveness by offering our confession to the Lord.

Such is our thanks for the mercy and forgiveness that God shows for us we follow this by expressing how glorious we know God to be.

All through this coming before God we have the opportunities to praise our God by singing, raising our voices to God as one, we sing hymns both old and new to acclaim the greatness of our God, and no matter how good or indifferent your singing voice is God hears it, and He loves you for it.

Then we hear the Collect, the Church's prayer for the day or for the week. This is an opportunity to collect our thoughts on a certain matter or subject as we offer our thoughts on a particular prayer to God and our thoughts and prayers are collected together.

Then we listen to the Scriptures and words from the Bible. They are sometimes familiar to us and sometimes not quite so, but they are the words that God has chosen for us to hear—us, gathered here, together, receiving His word.

We then stand, all together and recite the Creed, we recite this together for a reason ... *We believe in one God ... we are openly expressing the fact that we believe the same thing, that in both our hearts and minds we accept God in all of His glory.*

We then listen to someone praying the intercessions that we are asking God to make for us, whether they be for national or international concerns or whether they be for things much closer to home. We listen and pray and respond to these prayers of intercession as one body of people.

Going back to earlier in the service, we hear that one of Christ's greatest commandments to us is to live in love and peace with all. Here we are, together in church, what better place to share and practice this commandment than by actually sharing the peace of the Lord with each other.

The next part of our worship together is the Eucharist, the part of the service, and of our mortal lives when we are closer to our risen Lord than at any other time.

We begin by saying the Sanctus, which starts 'Holy, Holy, Holy Lord' and we hear the Eucharistic prayer, reminding us of Jesus giving instructions to His disciples at the Last Supper, and telling us to remember His sacrifice when we partake of the bread and wine.

To show that we are indeed ready to share in such a sacrifice, that we are truly willing to be His servants, we make an acclamation, a proclamation of our faith and belief that God truly did sacrifice His Son for our sins; together and aloud we say that Christ did die for our sakes, that Christ has indeed risen from the grave, and that He will come again. Surely this alone is reason to gather together as Christians.

The Eucharist continues, we, together say the very words that our Saviour taught us, we say His prayer. We say His prayer together, as one, even though we say His prayer with many different voices we pray the same prayer. We continue this theme of togetherness, of oneness, by saying that we are one body, one body of people, the bread that we share was one bread, like Christ's body it was broken, broken for us and we eat of it together, we drink the wine, the blood of Christ together, here in this place of worship we do these things together symbolising that we are one.

We continue, still as one body, asking the Lamb of God, the crucified Lord to take away sin from the world and to grant us peace. Who else could we possibly ask to remove so much sin, not just our own, not just from those of us gathered here but from the whole world, who else could possibly undertake such a task? And as if this wasn't too much to ask, we also ask to be granted peace—not just with our neighbours but throughout the world, peace for everyone. We have asked God to remove all sin from the entire world and to cause all people to abide in peace, surely this alone is good enough reason to leave our homes and gather here?

Although we have asked God to grant us these great things we must remember just who we are, humble sinners, well-meaning and truly loved by God but we remain sinners. Before we physically partake of the bread and wine we are reminded of our sinful nature, we are reminded of just how unworthy we are. We say to God a prayer of humble access, a prayer that tells the Lord that we realise that we remain not worthy and so dependent upon His mercy that we are not even worthy enough to gather up the crumbs that fall from His table.

Then we take Holy Communion: Holy Communion, so the dictionary tells us, is to share a close relationship where both thoughts and emotions are exchanged.

At the very point of taking the bread and the wine we are granted the opportunity to commune with our Lord: despite our sins we are allowed to be so very close to our God. We are, together as one people in commune with our Lord. Just think of that for a moment, you, in a very short time you will be in direct communion with the Lord!

After such a wonderful, inspiring gift we are able to give thanks and praise to God. Such is our gratitude that you can pledge your very soul and body as a living sacrifice, and that, with the power of the Holy Spirit we will both live and work in His glory.

We are then dismissed, not because God has now finished with us, and not because we have not measured up to God's expectations; in fact, the very opposite. We are all sent from here by the Lord, to go in peace, and to continue to love and serve the Lord. God has received our praise and He sends us out into His creation with a message of both love and service, to show to all that we love the Lord and will continue to live in His service.

These are the reasons that we gather together, to enter God's house together. God created us all differently but he welcomes us all into His house to worship and give thanks.

So, this is why we are gathered here this morning; this is why we praise God together in His holy place. We have turned up for God and, most wonderfully, He has turned up for us. Amen.

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

These prayers are based on Francis of Assisi's Canticle of the Sun

Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord,
all praise is yours, all glory, honour and blessings.
To you alone, Most High, do they belong;
no mortal lips are worthy to pronounce your name.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear out prayer.

We praise you, Lord, for all your creatures,
especially for Brother Sun,
who is the day through whom you give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour,
of you Most High, he bears your likeness.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear out prayer.

We praise you, Lord, for Sister Moon and the stars,
in the heavens you have made them bright, precious and fair.
We praise you, Lord, for Brothers Wind and Air,
fair and stormy, all weather's moods,
by which you cherish all that you have made.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear out prayer.

We praise you, Lord, for Sister Water,
so useful, humble, precious and pure.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear out prayer.

We praise you, Lord, for Brother Fire,
through whom you light the night.
He is beautiful, playful, robust, and strong.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear out prayer.

We praise you, Lord, for Sister Earth,
who sustains us
with her fruits, coloured flowers, and herbs.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear out prayer.

Merciful Father,

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

The peace

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy and peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

All And also with you.

HYMN 3 Let our praise to you be as incense

[\(please click here\)](#)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

The Dismissal

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and
be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you
and give you his peace;

and the blessing of God the Almighty:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

be with you now and remain with you always.

All Amen.

**HYMN 4 Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

[\(click here\)](#)
[\(modern, rock version\)](#)

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

Loving Father,
we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son:
sustain us with your Spirit,
that we may serve you here on earth
until our joy is complete in heaven,
and we share in the eternal banquet
with 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.