

**Sunday 25 June 2023**

# The Third Sunday after Trinity



**Sermon** © the Revd Robin Wilding.

**Liturgy and prayers of intercession** © 2000 The Archbishops' Council.

**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 [All I once held dear](#)

([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 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 Third Sunday after Trinity**

Almighty God,  
you have broken the tyranny of sin  
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts  
whereby we call you Father:  
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,  
that we and all creation may be brought  
to the glorious liberty of the children of God;  
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 Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

Jeremiah said, 'You deceived me, Lord, and I was deceived; you overpowered me and prevailed. I am ridiculed all day long; everyone mocks me. Whenever I speak, I cry out proclaiming violence and destruction. So the word of the Lord has brought me insult and reproach all day long. But if I say, "I will not mention his word or speak anymore

in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot. I hear many people whispering, "Terror on every side! Denounce him! Let's denounce him!" All my friends are waiting for me to slip, saying, "Perhaps he will be deceived; then we will prevail over him and take our revenge on him."

'But the Lord is with me like a mighty warrior; so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail. They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced; their dishonour will never be forgotten. Lord Almighty, you who examine the righteous and probe the heart and mind, let me see your vengeance on them, for to you I have committed my cause.

'Sing to the Lord! Give praise to the Lord! He rescues the life of the needy from the hands of the wicked.'

*Jeremiah 20:7-13*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Second reading

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans

Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

*Romans 6:1b-11*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 2** [When the music fades](#)

[\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

## Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

**All**    **Glory to you O Lord.**

Jesus said, 'The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

'So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn

“a man against his father,  
a daughter against her mother,  
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—  
a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.”

Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.'         *Matthew 10:24–39*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All**    **Praise to you O Christ.**

## Sermon

There was a time when people were encouraged to come to Christ and ‘everything will be wonderful’ as if following God was a ticket to happiness and blessing and everything in the garden is rosy. Hmm! This is not biblical Christianity— and a lot of attitudes in the church would be changed if we truly took this discipleship thing seriously. Let’s look at the readings we’ve heard today.

Firstly, the great prophet Jeremiah—called to be God’s voice when people don’t want to hear it. A privilege with no benefits. And his prayer is a good’n—‘O God, you’ve let me down!’ His problem, as with all of us, is his assumptions. Surely when God calls that means everything after will be a blessing and nice. What Jeremiah got was abuse and rejection and the torment of knowing the awfulness of the judgement coming and being powerless to be other than a lone voice of protest. As we follow the reading on we do see that despite this God is still very real and very wonderful to him and the focus of his adored praise. But what is clear is that this faith and following thing is different from what we assume. What have we got ourselves into??

Let’s turn to the gospel passage and what a corker it is! The people of the time are looking for God’s chosen leader, the Messiah and their assumptions are that when he comes everything will be wonderful—the Romans will be driven away and a new Golden Age of plenty and blessing would come. That rosy glow hope again—and Jesus shocks them to the core and turns all their assumptions upside down. Not peace but a sword! Being his disciple will disrupt everything—family, security, acceptance by others are all affected by the sword that is his name and allegiance to it. That rosy glow golden age is not coming—what are we then to make of his call to follow? Well, he himself issued the challenge, ‘Take up your cross and follow me’. ‘Do you love the world more than me?’ asks Jesus. Do you love your family, your parents, your children more than me? Do you love your life, your standing, your place in this world more than me? This is really uncomfortable reading and hearing—it is so easy to find ourselves compromised and looking to have our beliefs and our comfort, to have our lives and not let them be challenged by our declared love for Jesus.

Now to Paul and his amazing Romans passage. This particular bit is a response to an idea that had gained traction among the believers—if Jesus has died for our sins then it doesn’t matter what I do—I can act just how I want and I’ll be forgiven. Paul’s response to this seemingly logical idea was to point out that our love and commitment for Christ goes further than we ever thought. The whole message of baptism is that we have DIED—dead to our past, alive to our future; dead to the world, alive to God’s kingdom, died to our sinful self, alive to Christ and his

resurrection. So, if we live in Him we will no longer wish to live sinfully but out of love and gratitude live only for him. There are all sorts of implications to be thought through on this one, uncomfortable thoughts for we are challenged to be SEPARATE from the world while yet living in it so remaining true to Christ whatever the world might want—and without Christ or God moral boundaries always become blurred and pushed back. Making a difference by the love of Christ shown through us while not being changed into the world's image but seeing it changed somewhat into Christ through our influence.

What do we need to do today in the light of all this? Let's ask ourselves where our love and commitment for Christ sits—where does his love challenge our lives, our attitudes, our very selves today? Let's seek to live fully in his love and life.

## 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

We come boldly to the throne of grace,  
praying to the almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
for mercy and grace.

**All We plead before your throne in heaven.**



Father of heaven, whose love profound  
a ransom for our souls has found:  
We pray for the world, created by your love,  
for its nations and governments ...  
Extend to them your peace, pardoning love, mercy and grace.

**All We plead before your throne in heaven.**

Almighty Son, incarnate Word,  
our Prophet, Priest, Redeemer, Lord:  
We pray for the Church, created for your glory,  
for its ministry to reflect those works of yours ...  
Extend to us your salvation, growth, mercy and grace.

**All We plead before your throne in heaven.**

Eternal Spirit, by whose breath  
the soul is raised from sin and death:  
We pray for families and individuals, created in your image,  
for the lonely, the bereaved, the sick and the dying ...  
Breathe on them the breath of life  
and bring them to your mercy and grace.  
Extend to them your peace, pardoning love, mercy and grace.

**All We plead before your throne in heaven.**

Thrice holy! Father, Spirit, Son,  
Mysterious Godhead, Three in One:  
We pray for ourselves,  
for your Church, for all whom we remember before you ...  
Bring us all to bow before your throne in heaven,  
to receive life and pardon, mercy and grace for all eternity,  
as we worship you, saying:

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 [My Jesus, my saviour](#) (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

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 [All creation worships you](#) (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

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**

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining  
and whose power we cannot comprehend:  
show us your glory as far as we can grasp it,  
and shield us from knowing more than we can bear  
until we may look upon you without fear;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**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.