

**Sunday 30 June 2024**

# **Fifth Sunday after Trinity**



**Sermon** © the Revd Robin Wilding.

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

**Prayers of intercession** © Anglican Chaplaincy (adapted).

**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,

## Introduction and welcome

**HYMN 1** [Jesus lives!](#)

(please 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**

**All** Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

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

Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church  
is governed and sanctified:  
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,  
that in their vocation and ministry  
they may serve you in holiness and truth  
to the glory of your name;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
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 Lamentations

They are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.  
'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul,  
'therefore I will hope in him.'

The Lord is good to those who wait for him,  
to the soul that seeks him.

It is good that one should wait quietly  
for the salvation of the Lord.

It is good for one to bear  
the yoke in youth,  
to sit alone in silence

when the Lord has imposed it,  
to put one's mouth to the dust  
(there may yet be hope),  
to give one's cheek to the smiter,  
and be filled with insults.

For the Lord will not  
reject for ever.

Although he causes grief, he will have compassion  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;  
for he does not willingly afflict  
or grieve anyone. *Lamentations 3:23-33*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Second reading

A reading from St Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians

We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints—and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you.

Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something— now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does

not have. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written, 'The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.'

*2 Corinthians 8:7-end*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 2 All creation worships you**

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

## **Gospel reading**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

**All Glory to you O Lord.**

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, 'My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.'

So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, 'If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.' Immediately her haemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, "Who touched me?"' He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.'

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, 'Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?' But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, 'Do not fear, only believe.'

He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, “Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.’ And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, ‘Talitha cum,’ which means, ‘Little girl, get up!’ And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

*Mark 5:21–end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All Praise to you O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

The time of the Judges is a period when Israel had no real central authority except the worship of God. It was organised around regional tribal areas and this made it very vulnerable to the surrounding nations. A pattern develops of God bringing rescue from their predicament, a generation that remembers and keeps true, a generation that doesn’t care much and a generation that forgets and rebels at which point God allows the victory of the invaders and a period of trouble—then they remember and cry out and he sends a leader of his choice and gifting (known as a Judge) to be the means of rescue.

## **Beginnings and first lessons**

Our story starts with the people under the thumb of the Philistines for 40 years—a grouping of city states made up of people from Greek background who lived there for several hundred years. And we also start with a miraculous birth—we have more than one in the record starting with the birth of Isaac, then Samuel, John the Baptist – then the ultimate special miracle of the birth of Jesus.

The gift of the birth of Samson came with a codicil from God—he is to be brought up under Nazirite vows. These were normally for a limited time of commitment to holiness and marked by not cutting one’s hair—but Samson’s is from birth.

These miracle births in scripture are not casual—these people are given by and gifted from God for particular purposes so we need to take note of them.

Our first lesson though is that Samson had the looks of a Nazirite but did not own any of the behaviours—his oath was made for him not owned by him. We need to be sure we are not relying on anyone else in our commitment but give ourselves to his service and love ourselves.

### **The Arnie Schwarzenegger years**

Samson is for years a thorn in the side of the Philistines. His God-given strength was overwhelming and the various tales of his prowess show us how irresistible he was when roused. He's in many ways an impressive figure. In his strength and ability he struts the stage—Elvis, George Best, and Barry John come to mind as people of supreme confidence in their remarkable gifts and showed it in their use of it.

But there are buts. He never seems capable of an action that truly breaks the power of the enemy. He comes over too as a man of unbridled lusts—a user of prostitutes and reacting to appearance not character.

But also, I would suggest extremely popular as a figure head for resistance.

His downfall comes as a result of these failures of character (and of keeping the more challenging part of his vow!). Delilah wheedles his secret out of him after him having lied to her about it before. His strength is destroyed, the one part of his vow he has kept (his hair) is taken from him, and he is blinded to make him a laughing stock and to ensure an end to hopes for Israel.

Our second lesson is that without a true personal commitment into God's calling on us we can seem to be being effective while missing God's best.

### **Success at cost**

I sense that Samson is being used now as a talisman of Philistine victory. What is tragic is the depth to which he has fallen—blinded and helpless and a target for mockery, a sense of failure.

Yet now in the midst of imposed darkness there is a chance for reflection and indeed for prayer. And in prison his hair begins to grow. And the chance comes—all the leaders of Philistia join together to celebrate victory and in their midst is the scarecrow figure of their defeated foe. The Temple of Dagon where they meet has two pillars to support it and Samson has the chance to reach out and take hold and seeking God's help this time is given the chance to bring the whole pile down on their heads. In his death he achieves the victory over the enemies of God and of Israel. Note that this rather odd figure has four full chapters recording his life yet so much is about a failure of character and lost opportunities yet here is victory.

Our final lessons today are about parallels. In his death Samson reaches out his arms and takes strength from God in the midst of his weakness to destroy the rulers who hold God's people in thrall and shows the absolute weakness of the god



of the Philistines. Our Jesus in great weakness stretches out his hands and tears down the power of sin and the devil and even death itself as he dies to save us. Note that Samson is forced into his sacrifice, while Jesus chooses his path.

Let us commit ourselves afresh today to our amazing Jesus, let us seek to love him and follow him to the uttermost.

## 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

Everlasting God we are gathered together in love and fellowship, hear us now as we bring before you our cares and our needs.

We pray for your church throughout the world, for Christians everywhere. Grant that we and all your people may be built up in our faith and show in our lives the love we see in Jesus.

Lord, in your mercy

**All Hear our Prayer**

Lord God, we give you thanks for our church here and its life. We pray for all who minister and preach; all who enlarge and enrich our understanding of God and help us to respond to his love.

Lord, in your mercy

**All Hear our Prayer**

Holy God, we pray for Christians working in places of power and influence who make decisions which affect the lives of so many people. We ask you to bless those who work in politics, in the media, in advertising and in the financial markets. May they all know what to say and how to act for the benefit of all people and at all times to be true and faithful to you.

Lord, in your mercy

**All Hear our Prayer**

Father God we pray for those whom we love, family and friends who are the special people in our lives wherever they may be. We pray for their hopes, their fears, their problems and their needs but most of all we thank you for each one of them and for what they give and mean to us.

Lord, in your mercy

**All Hear our Prayer**

Merciful God, today's gospel showed the faith of a sick woman. Help us to learn from her. We raise before you now all those who we know who need to touch the hem of Jesus garments and receive health and healing in their lives especially those affected in any way by Coronavirus.

Lord, in your mercy

**All Hear our Prayer**

Merciful God, into your caring hands we commit those who have died and we pray for all those who are mourning the loss of a loved one. This morning we pray for and remember ...

Lord, in your mercy

**All Hear our Prayer**

Gracious God, we have laid before you our concerns and now we offer you our thanks and praise for all the blessings and gifts you lavish on us. In the weeks ahead help us to keep the faith as deeply and passionately as Jairus and the woman at the lake.

Lord, in your mercy

**All Hear our Prayer**

Merciful Father,

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

## **The Peace**

The peace to this house from God our heavenly Father.  
The peace to this house from his Son who is our peace.  
The peace to this house from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All** And also with you

**HYMN 3** [I could sing of your love forever](#) (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.

**All** **Amen.**

**HYMN 4** [Guide me O thou great redeemer](#) (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**

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,  
that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered  
by your governance,  
that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness;  
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.