

Berrow with Pendock, Eldersfield, Birtsmorton and Hollybush

A Service for the 1st Sunday after Trinity



WELCOME

Do have a candle, glass of juice/wine and cracker/piece of bread ready

The Lord be with you
and also with you

OPENING PRAYER

**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 Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE AND ABSOLUTION

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our
sins with a sincere and true heart.

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. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT

God of truth,
 help us to keep your law of love
 and to walk in ways of wisdom,
 that we may find true life
 in Jesus Christ your Son.
Amen

READING : Romans 5. 1-8

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(At home, please also read Matthew 9. 35-10.8)

REFLECTION

Today, as we gather together to hear the Word of the Lord, we realise that God is never silent in our lives. Sometimes in catastrophes, our fears and tears are so overwhelming that we cannot hear the voice of God, but God is still speaking to us, even in our sorrow.

In Romans 5:3 it says, “We rejoice in our sufferings because suffering produces endurance and endurance produces character, and character produces hope and hope does not disappoint us because the love of God is poured into our hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

What a strange thing to say. We rejoice in our sufferings. Does that mean we find joy in the present pandemic in the world?

Do we find joy in such suffering? What does this mean?

Loss. As we know from own experience, the first anniversaries of death seem to be always the worse. The first anniversary of a car accident, the life of a child; the suicide of a loved one; the first anniversary of a parent or spouse’s death.

As Christians, we discover that the Holy Spirit in us can transform even the worst human situation into something that is good. The Bible says that “all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purposes.” God can take all things, including the most dreadful, and transform those things into good.

It is my prayer that you and I will never not be complacent about God’s mercy, kindness and goodness to us. God can and does transform suffering.

The Word of the Lord says, “We rejoice in our sufferings because suffering produces endurance and endurance produces character.”

In the Greek language, the word ‘character’ is associated with a refiner’s fire such as in purifying silver whereby you create sterling silver, by which the fire burns out all the impurities out.

Similarly, in life as a human being, many people endure enormous suffering and this suffering often feels like a refiner’s fire. Enduring pain does not guarantee that character will develop, but character does not happen without some pain.

First, we are justified by grace through faith in Christ, and thereby we find peace, we find grace, and suffering is transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Since suffering produces endurance and endurance character and character hope. Hope does not disappoint us because the ‘agape’ charitable

love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. This love of God is not a little spoonful. Hope in the love of God is pour into our hearts, transforming all human relationships, transforming the future, transforming the pain of the past.

“No greater love has a person than this than they are willing to lay down their life for their friends.” Jesus on the cross: that is God’s love. Jesus said, “Unless a seed dies, it will not sprout, grow and become a plant.” As Christians, it is spiritually discovering that as a person dies to self, you are born again, you find life.

Those who have had to suffer for a worthy cause do not give up easily if at all. Progress in our society often involves suffering for any future movement. Think about all the movements that have taken place in our society, things that have challenged discrimination. The unrest at present with the backlash of racism and slavery.

To be able to stand the troubles of life, one must have a sense of mission and the belief that God sent him or her into the world for a purpose, to do something unique and distinctive; and that if we do not do it, life will be worse off because it was not done.

The first disciples had a simple method. Go to the needy. The sick and blind and crippled, those with leprosy, those who experienced death. Go to people who have a real felt need for God’s help in their lives. Jesus later said: “Healthy people don’t need a doctor; it is sick people who do.”

The Bible says that Jesus had compassion on them, like sheep without a shepherd, and the Greek word of “compassion” is deep feelings, gut feelings of love for the hurting. The way you reach people is with this attitude of deep compassion.

Jesus chose twelve common and ordinary people to go and do his work. The only thing the disciples have to offer is the kingdom of God, the power and presence of God to heal their lives, to make a difference in the way they live. The disciples didn’t have a church building and faculties to contend with. What it meant to work was to do the work of going to neighbours in need with the Gospel.

And so it is with disciples two thousand years later, we always relate Christ to the deepest needs of the person we are talking with. And the good attitude, the crucial attitude of compassion, is so very necessary. At the heart of discipleship is reaching out to our friends and neighbours and strangers in need with the genuine love and compassion of God living inside of you.

People are brought to faith and church by ordinary persons. And everyone has been given the authority to do this. Clearly, in the text for today, Jesus gives you the authority and power to do this. You don't have to go to read theology, go to college or have a religious title.

I don't know about you. I do not know what you have been going through. I do not know of the sufferings, the trials, the tribulations that you have encountered, but I encourage you to keep on pushing through. Do not allow the things that once were that are no longer available to you to hold you back.

As it says in Matthews Gospel set for today, Jesus said: "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Pray to the Lord of the harvest that he will send workers...*now!*" **Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray with all Gods people.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of life, and above all for your love in dying for us. Break down any barriers which prevent us from being at peace with you, and fill your church communities with love for all who do not know you yet.

(pause)

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Father, we thank you for the diversity and richness of your world,
For the natural goodness of many,
And the innocence of the very young.

We pray for all victims of our world's mistakes and evils, and ask for your guidance and courage for all leaders and advisors.

(pause)

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

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Father, we thank you for the joy of our families and friendships, as we have come to realise just how important they are during this pandemic. Let us treasure their love and pray for all those who we worry about, commending them to your keeping.

(pause)

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer

Father, we thank you for all medical research that has brought healing. We hope for more breakthroughs to improve the quality of care, treatment and eradication of diseases, especially the immunisation and tracking possible with Covid-19. We pray for all those who work in hospitals, care homes, hospices and clinics. We pray for all those who are harassed and worried, and long for peace of mind that eludes them.

(pause)

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Father, we thank you for all those received into your eternal kingdom. Be with those of faith and none as they mourn the loss of loved ones and whose hope has been shaken, disappointed or not fulfilled

(pause)

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Father, we thank you for all who sense your calling and respond with joy and hope. We pray for those workers in your harvest and pray for more workers to join us in gathering and sharing the joy of your peace.

(pause)

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Please ask for any additional prayers

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us.

**Our Father,
which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done ;
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil;
for thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
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 triune God be always with you
and also with you.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;**

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he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting.
 Amen.

THE THANKSGIVING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
 Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him 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:

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;

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And as we obey his command,
 Send your Holy Spirit
 That broken bread and wine outpoured
 May be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

Here is the table set for a special meal.

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 a 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 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
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
 Help us 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 into your loving arms with St Faith, St John the Baptist, St Thomas of
 Canterbury with St Peter and St Paul and all the Saints to feast at your table in
 heaven.

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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.

Amen.

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.**

Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast

(consume)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal Father,
we thank you for nourishing us
with these heavenly gifts:
may this communion strengthen us in faith,
build us up in hope,
and make us grow in love;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

**We thank you, Lord, that you have fed us
in this physical and spiritual sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples.
Amen.**

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

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 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,
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.