

Berrow with Pendock, Eldersfield, Birtsmorton and Hollybush



10th. 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

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.

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.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in thought and word and deed,**

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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 in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
 forgive you your sins,
 open your eyes to God's truth,
 strengthen you to do God's will
 and give you the joy of his kingdom,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE COLLECT

Lord of heaven and earth,
 as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer,
 give us patience and courage never to lose hope,
 but always to bring our prayers before you;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

READING : Matthew 15:21-28

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

(At home, please read Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32)

REFLECTION

Civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. in his famous letter from Birmingham Jail responded to criticisms of the local clergy who charged that he was an outside agitator who was stirring up trouble away from his home town. He wrote:-

"I am cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities and states. I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

The gospel story today features a woman - a Canaanite woman - who persists in asking Jesus for a healing for her daughter.

I think that Jesus was testing both the woman and the disciples who were so eager to send the Canaanite woman away.

Jesus was trying to make a point about faith - and about the barriers that people place in the way of salvation - barriers of race, culture, sex, wealth, and even religion.

Isaiah, the prophet that Jesus quotes the most - calls the House of the Lord of Israel, the House of God, to be called a House of Prayer for All Nations.

Whatever we think about the silence of Jesus when he is confronted by the woman from Canaan and the comment he makes to the disciples about the lost sheep of Israel. Whatever we make of his comment to the woman about how it is not fair to throw the bread of the children to the dogs - today's passage does show us that the barriers exist between people, and that those barriers can be overcome.

There are many kinds of barriers that seek to keep the woman from Jesus and the salvation that she seeks. Her nationality-she is not a Jew. She has no business turning to a Jewish religious leader for help as she does not worship the Jewish God or follow the Jewish religious customs and laws.

She is a woman - and despite the record of how many women came to Jesus for help, woman really no business approaching a male religious leader uninvited.

She must deal first with his silence and her natural reaction that surely welled up within her to simply give up and go away.

Then - on top of this - when she persists in crying out, she must deal with the disciples, who try to drive her away and who even go so far as to ask Jesus to send her away.

She must overcome the scorn, the frustration, and the repugnance of those around her - those who seem to have been told by the master that he has no responsibility towards outsiders like her.

And then, at last, when she does get close to the master and falls on her knees before him to ask for his help, she must deal with what seems to be an insult - she must swallow whatever pride she may have left and allow herself to be compared to a dog.

Think of having a real need in your life, and believing that there is someone who can help you with that need, but that person is totally unrelated to you by blood, culture, religion, or race – all barriers set against you.

Facing this kind of barrier, and a group of people who are telling you to get lost, dealing with apparent apathy, and even hostility from the person whom you are seeking help from, -- and all because of who you are and where you have come from.

Would you put up with it? Would you even bother trying in the first place? And having tried and being rebuffed - would you not be tempted to give up and to allow the barriers between you and your goal to stand?

How easy it is for us when we meet barriers between ourselves and what we want to walk away in sadness and in disgust, in anger, or in despair.

But the woman from Canaan persists despite the barriers between her and Jesus, despite the obstacles between her and what she believes is will be the source of her daughter's healing - the one whom she calls "Lord" and "The Son of David".

She believes that Jesus can help her and she is persistent and she is humble in her belief.

And that is what the story is really all about - it is about finding life - a good life - it is about overcoming the barriers that prevent others, and ourselves, from being made whole.

Certainly the woman from Canaan knew of the stories that she had heard, and perhaps because of what she herself had seen somewhere, she had the faith that Jesus was special and could bestow God's wholeness on the most important person in her life - her daughter. She holds onto her faith in the face of all the barriers that exist. In the end she receives the reward of faith – salvation.

When Jesus says to her at the end of the story
- "Woman, great is your faith"

Great is the reason you have for being here when your daughter is sick - great is the hope you have in coming to me - great is the trust that led you here and caused you to be persistent, clever, and even a bit pushy.

You see we often confuse faith - the faith that overcomes barriers – with action. And while faith most surely does lead to action, faith itself must be in the forefront to make those actions happen.

The woman from Canaan believed in Jesus, she had faith in him, - she believed he could heal, - she believed that he was her hope and he alone, and it was this belief, this faith, that overrode all other concerns, it alone gave her the energy to persist in the face of opposition, and supplied her with the courage and the audacity that she needed.

We need to remember our faith if we are to overcome barriers and receive wholeness, even when it seems God doesn't care.

We need to believe that God is life and healing, and that life is stronger than the mightiest enemy - stronger than death. And that love is greater than prejudice or ignorance. And that goodness is meant for all. God is the font of all grace.

When we have faith - when we turn to God as our hope and our life that which we seek we will find.

The answer we seek may not come instantly.
And the forces of human prejudice and ignorance may try to drive us away.

But if we hold onto our faith, if we persist in it
God will help us. This is the message of the story of the Canaanite woman.

This is the gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray to the God of all the earth.

Holy God, may the worship of your church throughout the world be
attentive and expectant,

Ready to be set on fire again and again

with much love and praise, without exceptions and without limits.

(pause)

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Holy God, may all that encourages people in goodness, honesty and
compassion be blessed and grow;

May all that encourages self-seeking and cruelty, prejudice and deceit
wither and be exposed.

May we learn from one another's cultures and respect one another's
differences.

(pause)

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Holy God, we thank you for the joy of human love,

And for all those among whom we live and work.

We pray particularly for our loved ones who worry us with their health, or
circumstances, or life direction.

We pray for those among our family and friends who do not know you, or
whose faith is shaken.

(pause)

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer

Holy God, we pray for all those whose backgrounds make belief in a loving God impossible. We pray for all those who suffer mental or emotional anguish and those in despair. We pray especially for those whose exam results are affected by decisions on grades made this year and whose future seems bleak and is held in the balance. We pray for all those facing pain, hunger or danger of any sort.

(pause)

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Holy God, gather into your eternal Kingdom all who have died recently. We remember all those we love and can no longer see. We remember with gratitude all those who gave up so much to bring good news to all in our communities.

(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;**

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for thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE PEACE

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord 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;
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;
 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.
 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

God of our pilgrimage,
 you have willed that the gate of mercy
 should stand open for those who trust in you:
 look upon us with your favour
 that we who follow the path of your will
 may never wander from the way of life;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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**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

**May the father from whom every family
in earth and heaven receives its name
strengthen you with his Spirit
so that Christ may dwell in your hearts;
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**