



Sunday 4 October 2020

*Trinity 17*

## Prayer and worship at home

### Preparation

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

The Lord is here  
**His spirit is with us.**

*So often we underestimate the difference we can make – to our church, to our communities, to our own lives. So let us come to our worship trusting that, by God's grace and with the help of the Holy Spirit, each of us has something to offer that is worthwhile.*

### The Act of Penitence

Jesus is the name at which every knee shall bend, on heaven and on earth and under the earth. Let us bow before him in prayer and penitence.

When we are unfruitful and unproductive, whether through laziness or selfishness or because we lack faith that we can make a meaningful contribution.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

When we do not share our potential, with God and others.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

When we forget how much joy it brings to be fruitful in the service of God.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

### Words of Forgiveness

May the God of love and power  
forgive us and free us from our sins,  
heal and strengthen us by his,  
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### The Special Prayer for this week

Gracious God,  
you call us to fullness of life:  
deliver us from unbelief  
and banish our anxieties  
with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

### The Word of the Lord

#### First Reading *Philippians 3.4b-14*

Even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Holy Gospel | Matthew 21.33-end

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ...

### Glory to you, O Lord

“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.” When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Affirmation of faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

## Prayers of Intercession



### The Lord’s Prayer

Joining with Christians throughout the world,  
we pray:

**Our Father....**

*Or*

**Our Father in heaven....**

### The Grace

*We conclude our prayers*

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy  
Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen**

### Readings for the coming week:

Monday	Psalm 71	Luke 10.25-37
Tuesday	Psalm 73	Luke 10.38-end
Wednesday	Psalm 77	Luke 11.1-4
Thursday	Psalm 78.1-39	Luke 11.5-13
Friday	Psalm 55	Luke 11.15-26
Saturday	Psalm 76	Luke 11.27-28

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate  
us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.