



Sunday Worship at Home 11th July 2021 Trinity 6

Opening Prayers:

The Lord our God Almighty reigns!

Let us rejoice and give him glory

Lord, direct our thoughts and teach us to pray.
Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Invitation to confession:

Jesus says, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand".
So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Lord, for the times when we have forgotten to love you:

Lord have mercy

Lord, for the times when we have forgotten to love others:

Christ have mercy.

Lord, we thank you for never forgetting to love us:

Lord have mercy

May almighty God have mercy upon you,
forgive your sins and bring you to everlasting light. Amen

The Collect (Special Prayer for the day),

Creator God, you made us all in your image: may we discern you in all we see,
and serve you in all that we do: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Gospel Reading: Mark 6:14-29

King Herod heard of it, (all the good works of the disciple), for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother.

When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.
This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Reflection on the Gospel.

The only response to this story is one of horror, and like many events of the bible, it is depicted in art. There is a superb oil painting by Carravagio, measuring 12ft x 17ft in St John's co cathedral in Valletta, Malta, which portrays the horror, the drama and the darkness of the deed. John was beheaded for having the courage to point out the wrongs of Herod's marriage to Herodias and pointing the way for many people to Jesus. The horror of John's death brings to the fore the persecution of thousands of people in this day and age whose only sin is being Christian, like us. What can we do to help them, our fellow brothers and sisters is faith? We can have the courage to speak out about injustice in the world and the wrongs of others, like John did, or sometimes, all we can do is pray! So don't turn off the news, or push these stories to the back of your mind, pray and pray again for political action to protect people of faith from tyrants, bullies and religious activists. Pray that those who commit such crimes may have their hearts turned from violence to love, and continually give thanks for the peace and liberty we enjoy in this land, that we may never take them for granted. Amen.

The Creed

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and 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**

Be still and Pray: Include the needs of the world and your family, friends and community, and those you have yet to meet. The Queen and her family. The work of the Government trying to make the right decisions when each of have our own thoughts. Those who suffer discrimination of any kind, those who suffer for their faith & those who are feeling lonely and lost. Pray for comfort and peace for those who are ill or awaiting hospital appointments and in quiet reflection pray for the souls of those who have died recently, and those you have loved, but now hold dearly in your hearts.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the glory and the power are yours forever and ever. Amen

Blessing:

The Lord bless you and watch over you,
the Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you,
the Lord look kindly on you and give you his peace,
today and always. **Amen.**

Reverend Irene