



Sunday Worship at Home September 26th 2021 Trinity 17

Opening Prayers:

This is the day that the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Lord, direct our thoughts and prayers
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Invitation to confession:

Hear the good news that the love of God is beyond measure
and you are included in that love.

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

Lord have mercy

Jesus: for the times 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 us,
forgive us our sins and bring us to eternal life. Amen

The Collect (Special Prayer for the day)

Gracious God, you call us to fulness of life:

deliver us from unbelief and banish our anxieties with the liberating love of Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Gospel Reading: Mark 9 38-40

John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. 'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell.' And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. 'For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

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

Reflection on the Gospel.

In today's Gospel Jesus gives us an important message, anyone who is not against us, is for us. Now generally as we go through life, we know the people who resonate with us and support us, and we also are aware of those who don't like us, who struggle to understand us or may even ignore us completely. We cannot like every one, some people just have the knack of getting under our skin. Nor can we expect everyone to **like us**. As human beings, many of us care too much about what others think of us and this can cause resentment or insecurity. Jesus, however, wants us to be free, he doesn't want us to be jealous of others' gifts or to show resentment in any way. All he wants us to do is appreciate the talents we have ourselves and use them for good. Take no notice of what you see on TV, life is not a competition to see who is the best or who has the best. So, if you ever feel yourself being critical of another person's actions, or good fortune, just stop and think for a moment, and be grateful that you are who you are - and don't don't worry about others. Judging others has the habit of making us feel more important or superior than we actually are and it can be the cause of resentment or jealousy. Jesus calls us to be salt in the world, if we are too busy judging others and elevating ourselves, we are like salt that has lost its taste, we become useless. We are all the same under the skin and we all have gifts to offer to others whose need is greater than our own, so concentrate on that. Be the salt of the world, live your own life as God intends, and live in peace. 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:

For our families and those and all those we love. For the Church throughout the world, giving thanks for the churches in our Benefice; for those who will attend services and those still shielding at home. For our nations' leaders to govern with love and care and not self-gain. We give thanks for rescue workers in all disaster areas of the world, especially those suffering from recent volcano eruptions and we pray for calmness and consideration as we face shortages in basic needs. Pray for God's comfort for those in sickness or need, and those recovering from illness. Keep in your hearts the memory of those who have died recently, especially Joyce North whose funeral takes place this week, and any others known to you. May they rest in peace and rise in glory Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

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; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever **Amen**

Blessing:

The God of all grace,
who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith; and the blessing of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and all those you love this day and always. Amen

Reverend Irene