

Sunday Worship at Home, 10th October 2021, Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity.



Opening Prayers:

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Give us the joy of your saving help
and sustain us with your life-giving Spirit.

A Prayer of Confession:

We are sorry that we sometimes care more about money and stuff than about building up treasure of heaven. **Lord, have mercy.**
We are sorry that we want to hold on to what we have instead of sharing it with others in need. **Christ, have mercy.**
We are sorry that we try to live our own way and do our own thing instead of trusting you and living your way **Lord, have mercy.**
May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Collect for the 19th Sunday after Trinity

Faithful Lord, whose steadfast love never ceases and whose mercies never come to an end: grant us the grace to trust you and to receive the gifts of your love, new every morning, in Jesus Christ our Lord., in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Reading: Mark 10:17-27 The Rich Man

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother."' He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.'

Reflection on the reading:

It has been a common myth for about 200 years, that the walls surrounding Jerusalem had a small gate called “the eye of a needle”. It would allow a man, but not a loaded camel, to enter the city after the main gates were locked. However, no archaeological evidence has ever been found to back up this theory, and if you think about it, why would you lock the front gates of a city at night and leave the back gate open? The real explanation Jesus’ words may be both far more obvious and far more shocking.... That Jesus really meant an actual camel, the largest animal of that region, literally going through the tiny eye of a sewing needle. We know from other surviving literature of that period that this was a common expression used to describe the impossible and would have been familiar to the disciples. We need to understand that Jesus is not saying that having wealth and possessions is always wrong. In fact, just about anything that we have too much of can become the thing that gets in the way of our relationship with God. When anything is more important than serving God, it has become our own personal idol. Like this man, for many people it is wealth and possessions. For others it may be sport or music or even other people. Here Jesus is saying that whatever it is that has become more important than spending time with God, is what we need to give up, and that is a hard thing to do – impossible even. But for God all things are possible. In the Epistle reading for today we are told to approach the throne of grace through Jesus, with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:14-16). So, we are to ask God what is getting in the way, and then when he tells us, leave it with him to deal with. The prayer of the desperate man to Jesus “Lord I believe, help my unbelief” (Mark 9:24) is a good one. 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: In your prayers, include prayers for the church, the needs of the world and our local community. Particularly pray for: Areas of the world affected by War, natural disasters and man-made disasters, especially Afghanistan, La Palma, and the West and East Seaboards of America; for our own county, nation and other nations dealing with rising COVID infection rates; for healing and peace for those who are ill; and for the souls of those who have recently died, and comfort for those who are mourning their loss.

Finish with The Lord’s Prayer:

Conclusion

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the source of all life and love, pour his blessing upon all things created, and upon you his children; **Amen**

Reverend Eddie