



Sunday Worship at Home October 17th 2021 Trinity 20

Opening Prayer:

Open our eyes to your presence Lord and open our hearts to your love. **Amen**

Invitation to confession:

Let us call to mind our sins:

Our Father: When we have failed to use our gifts for the good of others.

Lord have mercy

Lord Jesus: When we fail to show compassion beyond our own loved ones

Christ have mercy.

Holy Spirit: When we fail to accept your presence with us and give you our time.

Lord have mercy

May almighty God cleans you from sin and restore you in his image.

Amen

The Collect (Special Prayer for the day)

God, our light and salvation: illuminate our lives,
that we may see your goodness in the land of the living,
and looking on your beauty may be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel Reading: Mark 10:35-45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' And he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.' But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' They replied, 'We are able.' Then Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.' When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

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

Reflection on the Gospel.

James and John say to Jesus, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." If we took those words literally, they could be asking for anything and expecting Jesus to do it. – A new house each, lots of money, great power, the list is endless! Have they been with Jesus all this time just to reach the conclusion that he is a magician? One thing through is for sure, they knew things were about to change, Jesus told them so himself. Three times he told his disciples he was going to be crucified, he would rise again and return to his father in heaven. Jesus was indeed preparing them for the time he would not be among them. And even though they listened to the words, they did not fully understand what he meant. They were still focused on an earthly king and saviour and earthly power. So in that regard, James and John were being a bit sly in getting in their request for positions of authority in this new kingdom before any of the other disciples. But hadn't Jesus been talking to them about loving and caring for each other and being servants to all? The request of James and John, without thinking it through, showed no humility or care for anyone except themselves, and their desire to be seen in positions of authority.

Perhaps they thought that in some way, through their travels with Jesus, they had earned that right, or they were due a couple of favours in return for their faithfulness to Jesus. Whatever their thought processes were, it seemed that the more direct Jesus was about his death and resurrection, the less his disciples were able to understand him. The other disciples were “indignant” when they heard what James and John had done. Maybe they had been secretly thinking “if we keep our heads down and work hard, Jesus will reward us”, but they weren’t brave enough to speak up and James and John got in first, I bet they were kicking themselves. But is criticism of the disciples really fair? After all, weren’t they just ordinary human beings like we are, with the same faults and imperfections and the same desire to “get on” in the world? I envy them because they were with Jesus, they saw him, spoke to him and laughed and argued with him, but that didn’t mean they always understood him. So how does this story reflect on our lives? Are you a James or John, ready to push yourself forward in your relationship with God by telling him what you want from him? Or do you do all your good works and deeds hoping that God is noticing so that you get your reward in heaven? Or perhaps you never think of God at all, just live your life in the way that suits you? In a way, whatever the answers to these questions doesn’t matter because Jesus loves us no matter what. He proved that by giving us the greatest gift we can have, life itself! He drank from the cup that God gave him so we could receive forgiveness for our sins and be reconciled to God. How humble and unselfish is that. Jesus sets us an example at every turn, it is up to us to follow it.

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 world issues, including violence, crime and prejudice that all may cease. For a fairer distribution of the world’s resources, and governments to open their eyes to climate change with all its consequences. For our families and all those we love. For the Church throughout the world, for our clergy Eddie and Irene and Reader Jenny. Her majesty the Queen, and world leaders to govern with care. Remember those who are still shielding or have lost their confidence to go out, those who have lost their jobs and income and those struggling to feed their families, giving thanks for the work of all Food Banks and night shelters. Pray for those who are ill at this time that they may find God’s comfort and peace. Pray for the souls of Andy Sherman and Sir David Amess. May they rest in peace & rise in glory. Amen

The Lord’s Prayer: Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on 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. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

The Blessing:

Lord God, we rejoice in your greatness and power, your gentleness and love. Enable us by your Spirit to honour you in our thoughts, words and actions and serve you in all aspects of our lives; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and all those you love, this day and always. **Amen**

Reverend Irene