

Sunday Worship at Home, 24th July 2022, Sixth 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:

The bible reading today calls us to be faithful and persistent in our prayer. We pray for forgiveness for ourselves, confident of God's love and saving grace:

We are often slow to follow the example of Christ. **Lord, have mercy.**

We often fail to be known as Christ's disciples. **Christ, have mercy.**

We often fail to walk the way of the cross. **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 Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding:

pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, **Amen**

Reading: Luke 11:1-13

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.'

And he said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him." And he answers from within, "Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything." I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. 'So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

Reflection on the reading:

Our Gospel reading today is in two parts. The first is the model that Jesus gave for how to pray, and the second is about persistence in prayer. So to begin with Jesus tells us that when we pray we just begin in normal everyday language that is familiar and personal. Let me give you a bit of shock news. If you forget our English translations for a moment and go back to the original prayer that Jesus taught us it does NOT begin: OUR father. It does not even begin FATHER. It begins DADDY. DADDY you are Holy. It may seem a formal prayer to us, but Jesus intended it to be intimate and personal. And then it does not ask God to do for us what we want but asks God to do what HE wants: Daddy, you are Holy, make your Kingdom come and do what you want on Earth as well as in Heaven Only after we have set the context that we are asking God to do HIS will do we get around to asking for ourselves. And even then Jesus says we do not ask God for what we want but what we need. Give us today our daily bread: Bread was then , and still is now , is a staple food, Bread is a necessity for physical life. Forgiveness of our failings is a necessity for spiritual life, Forgiving others a necessity for community life. The final request is that we are not led into temptations and trials greater than we can bear. Having given us this model Jesus tells us that when we ask these things of God we should not only ask once and then give up, we must keep on knocking, keep on asking, keep on seeking, until we are given an answer. There will always be an answer. It may not always be the answer we want, but and it will always be the answer we need. **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: God of love, peace, justice and healing; we pray for all those in our benefice who are ill at this time, and those who are caring for them whether at home or in hospital; we pray for those struggling with rising cost of fuel and food, and who are fearful of how they may pay for tomorrow; we pray for our Government, distracted from national leadership by the election of a new prime minister; we pray for the people of Ukraine who fear what this day will bring; we pray that those in authority will seek peace and the laying down of weapons; we pray for all your precious children living at risk or in fear, that you would hold and protect them; We pray for all those who are on our hearts at this time.

Finish with The Lord's Prayer:

Conclusion

May God bless us and keep us, make his face to shine upon us, and give us his peace; **Amen**

Reverend Eddie