

Camel-Allen Churches

Sunday Morning Prayer at Home

28 June 2020

The Third Sunday After Trinity



Welcome to this morning's Home worship. Although we are alone at home, we stand before the throne of God with countless crowds from every nation and race, tribe and language.

Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour, power and might be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Loving God, we have come to worship you.

Help us to pray to you in faith, to sing your praise with gratitude, and to listen to your word with eagerness; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hand has made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain:

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:
How great thou art, how great thou art,
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee;
How great thou art, how great thou art.*

When through the woods and forests glades I wander
And hear the birds singing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart;
When I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim: my God, how great thou art.

We Seek Forgiveness

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

Lord, you made us to be one family, yet we have divided humanity.

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

You were born a Jew to reconcile all people, yet we have brought disharmony among races.

Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

You rejoice in our differences, yet we make them a cause of enmity.

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy.

God, the Father of mercies, has reconciled the world to himself through the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ; not counting our trespasses against us, and sending his Holy Spirit to shed abroad his love among us. By the ministry of reconciliation entrusted by Christ to his Church, may we receive his pardon and peace, to stand before him in his strength alone, this day and evermore. **Amen.**

The Word of God

Genesis 22: 1-14

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am". He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." So

Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I



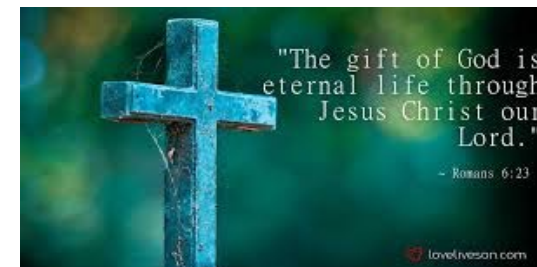
will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked altogether. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son". He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God

himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together. When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham. Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hands on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

Romans 6: 12 - end

Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourself to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have

become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Hymn

Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come.
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

When we've been there a thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.

Matthew 10: 40-42

"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple - truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."



Reflection

Our Old Testament reading is the well known story of Abraham and Isaac, which tells of the astonishing depth of Abraham's faith and willingness to obey whatever God might demand of him. The passage from Paul's letter to the Romans also speaks of the importance of obedience to God. Paul seems to see sin as a rival power to God, capable of enslaving us to earthly passions, but from which we can be freed by committing ourselves to obedience to God. Both passages are quite lengthy: but, in contrast, this week's Gospel reading must be the shortest in the whole three year cycle of Sunday readings.

Jesus is addressing his disciples. He has given them instructions to be sent out to proclaim the good news that the kingdom of heaven has come near. They are to travel light, to take no money or spare clothing but to rely on the generosity of strangers. They will be persecuted by Jew and non-Jew alike. This is hardly a morale boost for the troops.

To soften the harshness of his instructions, Jesus concludes his address with our passage today, emphasising the benefits which will accrue to those who welcome the disciples and accept the good news which they

bring. Anyone who welcomes one of the disciples, Jesus says, welcomes Jesus himself, and whoever welcomes Jesus welcomes the Father. This is a striking message: by accepting the good news of the Gospel we welcome Jesus into our lives, and by welcoming Jesus, we welcome God himself.

In this short passage the word “reward” appears no less than 3 times. Whoever welcomes a prophet receives the same reward as a prophet; whoever welcomes a righteous person receives the reward of the righteous; and whoever simply gives a thirsty stranger a drink of water will not lose his reward. So, to receive the same heavenly reward as one of the great prophets, like Isaiah or Jeremiah, we have only to welcome him by listening to and receiving what he has to say; to receive the reward of the righteous, we have only to welcome the righteous into our lives; and not to lose that reward, we have only to perform the slightest act of generosity.

In the times and culture of Jesus’s day, in a hot and arid country, it was an expected social obligation to offer a stranger water to drink. To require this, therefore, was no great demand: everyone would expect to do this without being urged to do so in the expectation of reward. And who, but the most callous or outright wicked, would refuse water to a thirsty little one?

So what is this reward of which Jesus speaks? The Gospel passage does not tell us; but St Paul does in his letter to the Romans. In our reading today, Paul draws a sharp distinction between living a godless life and a life of righteousness. He uses the language of slavery, which is difficult for us today: but all he is really saying is that our natural human condition causes us to seek self advancement, satisfaction for our

physical desires for food, drink, sex, money, luxury, such that we become enslaved to these desires and live only to satisfy them. But by the grace of God, we are able to put those desires in their proper context, such that we are no longer slaves to our own desires for these things: but become, instead, capable of righteousness and of being obedient to God, like Abraham.

And the reward? The wages of sin, says Paul, is death: but the reward for living righteously is eternal life in Christ. This is not the *wages* of righteousness, note, in contrast to the wages of sin, for we could never earn eternal life. Eternal life in Christ is the free gift of God.



Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the church.

This is our faith, we believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.



Prayers

Let us pray for our own needs and the needs of others, following the pattern which Jesus gave to us.

Our Father in heaven,

Through our love of the Cornish coast and countryside,

Through our love and care for each other and for all your creatures

Hallowed be your name.

In our homes and places of work; in our schools and colleges, in our hospitals and care homes; in all places where government policy is planned

Your kingdom come.

By our seeking your guidance; by our keeping your commandments; by our living true to our consciences

Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

For the millions who live in poverty and hunger; for our own needs and the requirements of our families, friends and neighbours; by cooperation, sympathy and generosity

Give us today our daily bread.

Because we have broken your commandments, doing what we ought not to do and neglecting what we ought to do

Forgive us our sins.

If any have injured us by injustice, exploitation, selfishness or negligence

We forgive those who sin against us.

When prosperity lulls us to false security, or hard times prompt us to despair; when success makes us boastful, or failure makes us bitter
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

In the assurance of faith, in the confidence of hope, in the will to serve, help us to love Christ as Lord, and our neighbour as ourselves,
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin, and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Hymn

Praise, my soul, the king of heaven!
To his feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise him still the same as ever,
Slow to chide and swift to bless.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness!

Father-like, he tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame he knows;
In his hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him;
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and the moon, bow down before him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace!

Closing

Let us pray:

In darkness and in light, in trouble and in joy, help us, heavenly Father, to trust your love, to serve your purpose, and to praise your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The love of the Lord Jesus draw us to himself;
The power of the Lord Jesus strengthen us in his service;
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill our hearts.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
Father Son and Holy Spirit be with us all,
this day and evermore.

Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ.

Amen



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