

Tuesday 15 February 2022

St Sigfrid



Saint Sigfrid was born in England. He probably arrived in Sweden soon after the year 1000 and conducted extensive missions in Götaland and Svealand. He devoted his life to the Christianisation of Sweden, even during a period of exile in Norway. A turning point occurred when he baptised the first monarch of Sweden, King Olof Skötkonung.

Sigfrid died in Växjö on an unknown date. His burial-place in Växjö became the centre of his cult.

Sermon and prayers of intercession © Revd Dr Paul Monk.

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Bible readings © the publishers of the NRSV translation.

- The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration appear at the end.
- The hymns are YouTube links. To hear the hymns please hover the mouse over each link, press Ctrl and then return.
- To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page,
<http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

Introduction and welcome

HYMN 1 **Jesus Christ, grow thou in me**

(click on this link to hear the hymn)

The Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

The Preparation

**All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.'

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.'

And the second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All Amen. Lord, have mercy.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Therefore, let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Gloria

This Gloria is sung to the tune of 'Cwm Rhondda'. Click [here](#) for the tune.

All Glory be to God in Heaven,
Songs of joy and peace we bring,
Thankful hearts and voices raising,
To creation's Lord we sing.
Lord we thank you, Lord we praise you,
Glory be to God our King:
Glory be to God our King.

Lamb of God, who on our shoulders,
Bore the load of this world's sin;
Only Son of God the Father,
You have brought us peace within.
Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,

**Now your glorious reign begin:
Now your glorious reign begin.**

**You O Son of God are Holy,
You we praise with one accord.
None in heav'n or earth is like you,
Only you are Christ the Lord.
With the Father and the Spirit,
Ever worshipped and adored:
Ever worshipped and adored.**

The Collect for St Sigfrid

Everlasting God,
who renewed the Church in Sweden and Denmark
through the faithful service of your bishop Sigfrid:
give us the grace to embrace every opportunity
to bear witness to the Gospel;
through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

First reading

A reading from the Book of Psalms

Refrain Righteous are you, O Lord, and true are your judgements.

12 Blessed are those whom you chasten, O Lord, ♦
whom you instruct from your law;

13 That you may give them rest in days of adversity, ♦
until a pit is dug for the wicked.

14 For the Lord will not fail his people, ♦
neither will he forsake his inheritance.

15 For justice shall return to the righteous, ♦
and all that are true of heart shall follow it. [R]

16 Who will rise up for me against the wicked? ♦
Who will take my part against the evildoers?

17 If the Lord had not helped me, ♦
my soul would soon have been put to silence.

18 And when I said, 'My foot has slipped', ♦
your loving mercy, O Lord, upheld me. [R] *Psalm 94:12-18*

All **Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen.**

Second reading

A reading from the Letter according to St James

Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. No one, when tempted, should say, 'I am being tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. But one is tempted by one's own desire, being lured and enticed by it; then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and that sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death. Do not be deceived, my beloved.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. *James 1:12-18*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 2 Jesus, remember me

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

All Glory to you O Lord.

The disciples had forgotten to bring any bread; and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. Jesus cautioned them, saying, 'Watch out—beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod.'

They said to one another, ‘It is because we have no bread.’

And becoming aware of it, Jesus said to them, ‘Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes, and fail to see? Do you have ears, and fail to hear? And do you not remember? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?’ They said to him, ‘Twelve.’

‘And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?’ And they said to him, ‘Seven.’ Then he said to them, ‘Do you not yet understand?’ *Mark 8:14–21*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Today’s Gospel passage may seem a bit complicated with Jesus bombarding us with statistics. What he’s saying is that one miracle started with a small amount of bread and fish yet he fed a great many people. Conversely, in a second and related miracle, he fed fewer people despite starting with more food. The story is meant to illustrate the cause and effect of faith: a greater faith has a greater effect.

Similarly, James in his epistle speaks about temptation and what happens when we succumb or do not: we either sin or gain eternity as a consequence. And today’s Psalm is much the same. To paraphrase its refrain, ‘God is righteous *and in consequence* his judgements are true’—it’s all framed in the language of cause and effect.

We’re so familiar with the argument of ‘cause and effect’ that we fail to grasp its scope. We see simple examples everywhere: we heat food and it cooks; we use a hotter oven and the food cooks faster; we add a small amount of salt and can barely taste it but add a larger amount of salt and we become thirsty; and so on.

Investigations in the scientific world often progresses by experiments, which is a way of saying someone does something in a laboratory (they change a chemical, concentration, temperature, pressure, and so on) then analyse its effect. When conducted carefully, an experiment is a powerful way of looking at the world. Our understanding grows and the world can become a better place.

We rarely think in terms of ‘cause and effect’ in the spiritual world, but again the idea is everywhere if we look for it. For example, the Christian who thinks about their faith and meditates before a service in the Church is more likely to feel different afterwards—they feel peace or maybe fulfilment. Sometimes it’s less tangible. As C S Lewis famously said, ‘When I pray coincidences happen and when I stop praying they stop.’

These thoughts suggest that Christian growth can be analysed. That growth cannot be quantified in the same way as an experiment in science. It's silly to say, 'I'm 11.2% better at being a Christian than I was last year!' But we can look for trends and patterns. Here are a few examples:

- We are more likely to feel closer to God if we pray at a time when we're fully awake than if we pray at the end of a long, busy day.
- The Christian who reads the Bible regularly and often will understand the nature of God much better than the Christian who does not.
- The disciple who chooses which of the Commandments to follow will not grow in their awareness of God as fast as they would by following the Commandments closely.
- The person who talks about their faith often will grow faster in their relationship with God than if they keep it to themselves.

These examples may seem trite, but they illustrate the essential truth that we *can* grow in faith; indeed, ***God wants our faith to become as great as possible***. A few Bible verses are sufficient to demonstrate that truth: 'You must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ' (2 Peter 3:18); 'Jesus said, "Be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect"' (Matthew 5:48); or even 'The prayer of a righteous person is powerful (James 5:16). There are a great many examples.

St Sigfrid was an evangelist. He wanted people to accept Christ and thence grow into Christlikeness. Like his converts, we are called to live lives modelled on Jesus. To that end, we are called to grow in faith. That growth will not happen merely because we tell it to. It will only grow if we look at our faith and make choices. Maybe that's why Jesus tells us to, 'Love the Lord with all your mind.'

The Creed

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

All 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?

All 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?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

Prayers of intercession

These prayers are inspired by Holy Week and the Passion of Jesus.

Jesus prepared to give up everything for you. We confess that we have wilfully kept ourselves from you and used our time and possessions for ourselves alone.

Loving God, help us to be more like Jesus:

All I want to be like Jesus

Jesus prepared to meet with you. We confess that we have wilfully refused to meet with you in prayer, scripture or sacrament.

Loving God, help us to be more like Jesus:

All I want to be like Jesus

Jesus fought against the powers of darkness. We confess that we have wilfully refused to fight against temptation.

Loving God, help us to be more like Jesus:

All I want to be like Jesus

Jesus cleansed the Temple. We confess that we have wilfully failed to cleanse the Temple of our hearts.

Loving God, help us to be more like Jesus:

All I want to be like Jesus

Jesus gave us the sacrament of communion—bread and wine made holy. We confess that we have wilfully refused to look beyond outward and visible and refused to look for the inward and spiritual.

Loving God, help us to be more like Jesus:

All I want to be like Jesus

Jesus washed the feet of His disciples. We confess that we have wilfully failed to live lives of humility and self-emptying.

Loving God, help us to be more like Jesus:

All **I want to be like Jesus**

Merciful Father,

All **accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

The peace

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father.

Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace.

Peace from the Holy Spirit, the Life-giver

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

All **And also with you.**

HYMN 3 This fragile vessel

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

The Dismissal

The peace of God which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God the Almighty:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

HYMN 4 May the mind of Christ my saviour (click on this link to hear the hymn)

or **The mind of Christ** (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, you made the world and love your creation.
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.
His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.
And so we gladly thank you,
with saints and angels praising you, and saying,

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with Sigfrid and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

All **Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

All **We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us.
Amen.**

Communion is distributed.

Prayer after Communion

Holy ** Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen**

All **Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**