

Sunday 4 July 2021

The Fifth Sunday after Trinity



Sermon and Prayers of intercession © Revd Jane Hyde.

Liturgy © 2000 The Archbishops' Council.

Bible readings © the publishers of the NRSV translation.

The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration are included 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 We have a Gospel to proclaim (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 the Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

First reading

A reading from the First Book of Samuel

Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, 'Look, we are your bone and flesh. For some time, while Saul was king over us, it was you who led out Israel and brought it in. The Lord said to you: 'It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel.' So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months; and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.

David occupied the stronghold, and named it the city of David. David built the city all around from the Millo inwards. And David became greater and greater, for the Lord, the God of hosts, was with him. *2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from St Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong. *2 Corinthians 12:2-10*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 2 When I needed a neighbour (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.

Jesus left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' And he could do no deed of

power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, 'Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.' So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them. *Mark 6:1-13*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

You cannot fail to have been caught up in the excitement surrounding England's win against Germany in the recent Euro 21 football tournament (even if you only saw it ecstatically reported in the news). Some of the success might be attributed to the overwhelmingly partisan vocal support of the home-grown Wembley crowd ... willing the team on, cheering their attacks, commiserating with their misfortunes and celebrating their goals. Matches 'away from home' are inevitably a different matter, less comfortable, the crowd perhaps indifferent to 'our' players' efforts, unlike at home where the majority of the spectators are right behind them. It's a different matter when it comes to "imparting a message". Instead of cheering on one of their own, the crowd may well turn against them, and this is precisely what is happening at the beginning of our Gospel reading this morning.

The problem is that Jesus is not delivering the messages the crowd wants to hear—it's almost as if he is scoring goals for the other side! Despite hearing his wise teaching in the local synagogue and witnessing the few '*deeds of power*' ... healing '*a few sick people*' ... his 'home crowd' only see Jesus through the narrow lens of familiarity and prejudice, and are affronted by the presumptuousness of a local lad.

Taking his own advice (which he later gives to the disciples) Jesus quits the place where he grew up and travels on. He adopts a different strategy when it comes to commissioning the disciples for their prophetic and pastoral ministry. He sends them out, to places where they are literally and metaphorically unencumbered by baggage, although two by two, so not entirely alone. The reaction of the hearers elsewhere should be less prejudiced by familiarity—the disciples will be playing

on a 'level field.' The message itself is all—important, and Jesus designs it to be plain, undisguised by the trappings or identity of its presenters.

As we think about this story, should we perhaps consider where we are when Jesus' message is spoken to us? Are we at the 'home' or 'away' ground? Too often we tend to become the insiders, the partisan crowd. Many of us have grown up with Jesus and he—and his disciples—have almost become "ours": the domesticated home team. They are at our disposal, their job is to please us, comfort us, and not to challenge us. The more we hear the words of scripture, the more we might become familiar and comfortable with what they have to say, and may even 'tune out', assuming we know all there is to know. If that's a possibility, we must try to be 'foreigners' in our listening, resolving to hear the Gospel as if it were new every time.

Provoking a response in their audience was what the disciples, John the Baptist and the Old Testament prophets had in common with Jesus. Their vital proclamation of the will of God was enhanced by plainness and strangeness, it was not the crowd-pleasing of the home team, but a stark wake-up call from left field. Yet it is not only a change of heart which is required of those who hear the Gospel. Like the disciples—without baggage or additional protection—we must carry the kingdom abroad.

We may think to ourselves that we couldn't possibly be prophets, standing up and speaking out; or the kind of travelling preachers or healers that the apostles were, let alone another John crying in the wilderness or a Saint Paul ... but perhaps, in our own way, we can. For there are two fundamental elements essential to Christian discipleship which we can all attend to: how we pray and how we live.

Through diligent prayer and reading scripture, we may become more attuned to the words and ways of God. Then perhaps we may adopt values and behaviour somewhat different from those of our immediate neighbours. In this way our whole lives can become part of God's message to the world and we may find we make a difference on God's team, both home and away.

This morning, twenty-five new deacons will be ordained at Manchester Cathedral, but today's Collect reminds us that all faithful people—yes, you and me —have a vocation and ministry to serve God in holiness and truth. Mercifully, with God, holiness is in the very middle of the muddle of life, as well as in its glorious moments. Holiness is the fruit of intentional faithfulness to God whatever our situation.

So let us resolve not to be too comfortable in our discipleship ... let us look for ways to revisit and respond more faithfully to the uncompromising challenges that are presented to us in the Gospel. Re-evaluating our lives in the sometimes out-

rageous light of Jesus' teaching, and changing our ways and our mind-set accordingly, amount to true 'repentance'. By being more conscious and intentional in living our lives in the powerful floodlight of Christ ... whatever role we fulfil on his team ... by our lives and witness, we cannot help but proclaim his teaching to others. Amen.

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

Heavenly Father, we are the body of Christ
because your Spirit binds us together with your life.
Send us out strong in our weakness and littleness.
Lord in your mercy,

All Hear our Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray for all who will be ordained this Petertide,
that your blessing will rest upon them
and that you will prosper their ministries.
Lord in your mercy,

All Hear our Prayer

Heavenly Father, all governments
are answerable to your authority,
and much evil is allowed to flourish
through the silence of good people;
give us all the courage to speak out your truth,
whether it is popular or not.

Lord in your mercy,

All Hear our Prayer

Heavenly Father, be in all our listening
at home at school and at work;
may we give our full attention to you
and to one another,
happy to grow wiser through each conversation.

Lord in your mercy,

All Hear our Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray for those
who suffer in silence;
for those who have no one to confide in,
no one to listen.

We pray for your love to enfold them,
your peace to calm them
and your healing to transform them.

Lord in your mercy,

All Hear our Prayer

Heavenly Father, prepare us all during this life
for the life to come;
we commend to your keeping all those
who have recently made their journey through death.

Lord in your mercy,

All Hear our Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you
for making your ways known to us
and guiding us into your truth.

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 We are one body

[\(please click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

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
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
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 What a friend we have in Jesus

[\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

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 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

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,
that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered
by your governance,
that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness;
through 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.