

Sunday 3 July 2022

The Third Sunday after Trinity



Sermon and prayers of intercession © Paul Monk.

Liturgy © 2000 The Archbishops' Council.

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 All my hope in God is founded (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 Third Sunday after Trinity

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 your Son our Lord,
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 Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her—that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast; that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious bosom. For thus says the Lord: I will extend prosperity to her like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm, and dandled on her knees. As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem. You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bodies shall flourish like the grass; and it shall be known that the hand of the Lord is with his servants, and his indignation is against his enemies.

For the Lord will come in fire, and his chariots like the whirlwind, to pay back his anger in fury, and his rebuke in flames of fire. For by fire will the Lord execute judgment, and by his sword, on all flesh; and those slain by the Lord shall be many.

Isaiah 66:10–16

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Galatians

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. *Galatians 6:7-18*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 2 Colours of day
Colours of day

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

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

All Glory to you O Lord.

Jesus appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone

is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, “The kingdom of God has come near to you.” But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, “Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.” Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.’

The seventy returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!’ He said to them, ‘I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.’

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

In a sense these are readings about ‘fire from heaven’. Isaiah talks the language of comfort for the redeemed and justice for those who refuse to accept the love of God. But he also says, ‘I rebuke in flames of fire.’ The image is meant to remind us of God destroying Sodom and Gomorrah, fire consuming Jacob’s sacrifices, or maybe the great cosmic battle between Elijah and the priests of Baal with its centre-piece image of fire from heaven consuming a sacrifice.

That fire from Heaven was intended to bring the purity of Heaven down to a sinful earth. Sodom was a place of idolatry, rampant God-less-ness, so its destruction was an act of cleansing. Sacrifice as a concept may be more difficult to understand, but it was conceived as offering of self to God, allowing Him to consume our sin and therefore again a transferring of the purity of Heaven down to a sinful earth.

There’s also fire in today’s Gospel, because Jesus sees Satan fall from heaven. Remember that in Hebrew mythology, Satan was the most glorious of all God’s creations. Jesus will have that spiritual image in his mind’s eye when he saw Satan fall, so (to him) the event will have looked like something blazing—fire accompanying the ending of a war in heaven. This time the fire is cleansing Heaven itself. And a pure Heaven implies a greater scope for the cleansing of the earth.

We next fast forward a little. In the New Testament, the principal fire from heaven is Pentecost. It's significant that we also call the event 'Whit'—the word comes from White, and yet again implies a bringing of the purity of Heaven down to a sinful earth. All through New Testament, receiving the Holy Spirit is accompanied with purity, conviction of sin, bringing newness, cleanliness, Godliness.

We're talking about fire from heaven. In a sense that fire is a metaphor for the bigger picture: earth is sinful and contains sinful people who commit sinful acts. That's why God wants to purify the earth. Read through that lens, today's three readings spring into life in a new and different way.

Isaiah is saying that comfort and peace are proof positive that this purification is indeed occurring. The prosperity he describes is not so much physical money and tangible places we can occupy, but a reclaiming of the riches of grace and an inhabiting of the spiritual domain. He's saying that we *can* live spiritual lives.

St Paul is talking about the means to the same end: if we want purity on earth, we must ourselves be pure people. We reap what we sow. We can sow seeds of impurity—sin—or we can sow seeds of goodness. In that light, his language about circumcision is a rather Jewish way of saying 'get rid of that which is not good.'

Which all brings us to the Gospel. Jesus is sending his disciples into the world as evangelists. They are sharing the Gospel and, it seems, with considerable success. Even the demons listen to them. Actually, that chance sentence about demons is the key. It prevents us confusing the means with the ends: Jesus sends out evangelists not to make more and more Christians to fill more and more churches but, rather, because we need to transform more human lives from their separation from Heaven and bring them back into close friendship with God. It's breaking Satan's stranglehold on earth. We need to see fire from Heaven bringing back purity to the earth. It's causing the fall of Satan in human lives.

It's now over to us. It's our turn. God wants to purify the world. He therefore wants to transfer the purity of heaven to our part of the earth and with us as willing partners. Through word and deed, through example, through active campaigning and through prayer, God wants a pure earth. As Jesus taught us in his trademark prayer, 'Your Kingdom come, on earth as it is in Heaven.'

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

We bring our prayers and praises to God in whose service is freedom and joy.

Lord Almighty, saviour all-loving, we offer you our lives. Through your Holy Scriptures, the Lord Jesus taught us to love you with heart, soul, mind, and strength. Help us to choose life over death and ways of living that lead to Christlikeness ...
Lord, in your mercy.

All Hear our prayer.

Lord Almighty, inspiration of the Church, we offer you our lives. Through your Holy Scriptures, the Lord Jesus taught us to love one another. Help us as we travel together in our earthly pilgrimage that we can safely reach our heavenly homes ...
Lord, in your mercy.

All Hear our prayer.

Lord Almighty, creator of the world, we offer you our lives. Through your Holy Scriptures, the Lord Jesus taught us to pray with the words, 'Your Kingdom come.' Heal our world and inspire us to work for peace, reconciliation, and community ...

All Hear our prayer.

Lord Almighty, healer of the oppressed, we offer you our lives. Through your Holy Scriptures, the Lord Jesus promises us fullness of life. We pray for those whose lives are blighted by illness, sorrow, and care ...
Lord, in your mercy.

All Hear our prayer.

Lord Almighty, comforter of the redeemer, we offer you our lives. Through your Holy Scriptures, the Lord Jesus is the resurrection and the life. We pray for those whose earthly lives have come to an end ...

All Hear our prayer.

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 I the Lord of sea and sky [\(please click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)
I the Lord of sea and sky [\(different version\)](#)
I the Lord of sea and sky [\(another version\)](#)

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 the Almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and remain with you always.

All Amen.

HYMN 4 In Christ alone [\(Celtic rock version\)](#)
In Christ alone [\(Celtic instrumental version\)](#)
In Christ alone [\(harp instrumental version\)](#)

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

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.