

**Sunday 10 July 2022**

# The Fourth Sunday after Trinity



**Sermon and prayers of intercession** © Revd Dr 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** [Make me a channel of your peace](#) (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 Fourth Sunday after Trinity**

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,  
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:  
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;  
that with you as our ruler and guide  
we may so pass through things temporal  
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;  
grant this, heavenly Father,  
for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
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 Deuteronomy

The Lord your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the Lord will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, when you obey the Lord your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

*Deuteronomy 30:9-14*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Second reading

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Colossians

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. *Colossians 1:1-14*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 2 Brother sister, let me serve you** ([click on this link to hear the hymn](#))

**Brother sister, let me serve you** (different version)

## Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**All Glory to you O Lord.**

A lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' He

answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.' But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?'

Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?'

He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.' *Luke 10:25-37*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All Praise to you O Christ.**

## Sermon

It's rumoured that while President, Bill Clinton displayed on his desk a sign that said, 'It's the economy, stupid.' He knew that almost everything else followed from getting that one goal right. I wonder if Christians should put a sign on their desks, saying, 'It's about eternal life, ...'?

At the beginning of today's service, we hear perhaps the most widely quoted Bible verse from the entire New Testament: John 3:16 says, '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.'

That's why today's Gospel is so important. It starts with its vital opening question, 'Master, how can I attain eternal life?' It's the language of Heaven. Jesus replies by saying that eternal life involves love—love of God and love of neighbour. Automatically, we know that eternal life cannot be demanded because love is never amassed in that way. Any love worth the name is mutual and is shared, so God is sharing Himself with us and we are sharing ourselves with God. And we're sharing ourselves with each other because love is like that. You are my neighbour

and I am yours. There's a letting go here, a sense of lowering the drawbridge, opening the shutters, overlap of our lives with God and with neighbour.

As is right and proper for a lawyer, the man who questions Jesus next defines his terms. He asks. 'Who then is my neighbour?' and it's now the answers get really interesting. Jesus' response is so well known that it slips off the tongue too easily. It's like the taste of clean water or the smell of fresh air. We don't notice it any more. That's a great shame because it's meant to shock us into action. Instead of calling it the parable of the Good Samaritan, maybe it could be called the Good Catholic in Northern Ireland or the Good Muslim in a mega-Church. Maybe it's the Good Russian in Ukraine or the Good Druggie, the Good Skunk, the Good Other.

The point is that we should draw the net wide. Jesus is saying that as followers of the Lord Jesus we are prone to share the love of God with people who look like us, sound like us, act like us ... *and then stop*. Jesus says that drawing back is not acceptable. We must share God's love and mercy with others: black, white, and brown; Muslim, Hindu, and Sikh; gay, straight, and everything in between; tall and short; old and young: in fact, he is demanding complete inclusivity here. We are to invite everyone and love them. True, to follow the discussion from last week, we can stop if the person refuses our love—remember those readings with their reference to 'shaking the dust off our feet'? But as followers of the Lord Jesus we are to offer the love of God to everyone. And don't forget the start of the Gospel: we do so in order to draw down eternal life.

Jesus talks the language of love and mercy. Love and mercy demand truth. With truth, we may admit to ourselves that we want to gain eternal life for ourselves alone and keep Heaven safe from those not like us. That stance cannot be taken to imply genuine love. It would be selfish and on a par with the person who comes to Church to receive a free lunch.

The point of true love is that we want it to continue and never stop. If we truly love God, we will work at keeping it forever—which again means eternal life. In the same way, if we genuinely love our neighbour, we'll seek to stop any separation such as death, which means we'll find for the person we love the means of their eternal life so they can follow us (or we follow them) and we can then resume that love once we're reunited together with God. The point of the parable is not that the Good Samaritan was a Samaritan or that he was significantly put out. It's that he showed mercy which provoked love, which leads to eternal life.

Christian: are you showing the kind of mercy that leads to love? Will today's writers follow St Paul and writ to us, 'to the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in XXX?' Are we willing to share Heaven with people not like us? Then, and only then, will be fit for eternal life.

I therefore think its really important when we ask questions like, 'What does a successful church look like?' that the answer includes teaching its members to act like the Good Samaritan, teaches its members to love sacrificially in order to emulate Jesus, and reach out to neighbours in order to love them, and lead them with cords of love toward eternal life. To my mind, that's a Church worth joining.

## 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

In the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus says that eternal life comes from true love of God and genuine love of neighbour. Teach us to love like this.

Lord, hear us.

**All Lord, gracious hear us.**

In the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus tells those who wish for eternal life to love God. We pray for the church, that its message will point to you as the true God of love and mercy.

Lord, hear us.

**All Lord, gracious hear us.**

In the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus says that anyone can be our neighbour. We pray for those we know, those we influence, and those influenced by us. We pray for all those who work to create neighbourliness and work for the common good. Lord, hear us.

**All Lord, gracious hear us.**

In the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus tells Christians to love those who suffer and support those in need. We pray for victims of violence and robbery, for those who help the sick and wounded, the poor and all those who seek to help. Lord, hear us.

**All Lord, gracious hear us.**

In the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus says that eternal life comes from loving God and loving neighbour. We pray for those who care for the dying, those who died violently, and all who have passed from this world to the next. Lord, hear us.

**All Lord, gracious hear us.**

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 Lord, for the years  
Lord, for the years  
Lord, for the years**

**(please click on this link to hear the hymn)  
(different version)  
(instrumental version)**

**The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below.**

HYMN 4 [Jesus Christ is waiting](#)

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

## 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.**

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**

Eternal God,  
comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken,  
you have fed us at the table of life and hope:  
teach us the ways of gentleness and peace,  
that all the world may acknowledge  
the kingdom of your Son 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.