

**Sunday 17 July 2022**

# The Fifth 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 [Amazing love \(what love is this?\)](#)** (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 Moses called Genesis

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, 'My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.' So they said, 'Do as you have said.' And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, 'Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.' Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, 'Where is your wife Sarah?' And he said, 'There, in the tent.' Then one said, 'I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.' *Genesis 18:1-10*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Second reading

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Colossians

[Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him.

He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him—provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me. *Colossians 1:15-29*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 2 Alleluia! Alleluia! Give thanks**

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

## Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**All**    **Glory to you O Lord.**

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.' *Luke 10:38-42*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All**    **Praise to you O Christ.**

## Sermon

Isaac Watt's great hymn that started today's service says it all, with its magnificent last line, '... demands my heart, my life, my all.' We're talking about a worthy response to God and the language of worship.

At face value, today's readings speak about giving hospitality to God. The most obvious is today's Gospel which describes Jesus resting in the house of Mary and Martha. The strange story in Genesis depicts Abraham offering bread and a sacrificial lamb to three 'men' who represent God—a rare Trinitarian image in the Old Testament. And in tortured prose, St Paul talks about offering the church to God.

In fact, all these readings talk about giving, about sacrifice, and about a proportionate response to God. Read through that lens, they become vital. The three readings look at three different ways of worshipping—'giving worth'—to God.

In the Old Testament reading from Genesis, we continue the story of Abraham and Sarah. By now they're an elderly couple and here they drop everything to offer hospitality to God. Nothing must come in the way because God is too holy and too important to ignore, so Abraham offers God a sacrifice. At the dawn of recorded time, for example in the Bronze Age when Abraham was around, this the default response when worshipping: you offer a sacrifice, for example killing a lamb as in this reading. It gives an image of appeasing a distant, wrathful God: we give from our plenty or poverty as a way of allaying His anger. It's therefore an act of atonement—literally 'at-one-ment'—seeking to bridge the divide between Heaven and earth, making them one. Today's first reading invites us to ponder worship like this.

The second reading from Colossians is also about worship, but this time

considers 'the cosmic Christ'. In it, St Paul insists that Jesus is God and oversaw the whole creation. He says,

[Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him.

I don't know if you saw the images from the Webb telescope during the week. They were amazing. Imagine holding a single grain of sand on your fingertip and stretching your arm out as far as it will extend. The proportion of the sky obscured by that tiny grain of sand is almost infinitesimal, yet the Webb telescope saw between ten and twenty thousand galaxies in that minuscule part of the sky alone. And God made all of it. Today's scriptures invite us to worship this aspect of God.

The third reading is very different. The story is incomplete, of course, but we do know that Mary and Martha are sisters and it's probable that their brother is the same Lazarus whom Jesus would shortly raise back to life. In this part of the story, one sister is busy with housework and cooking while the other sits at Jesus' feet and listens. We assume she is in a state of absorption, adoration, and worship. Jesus seems to criticise the active sister Martha because she has chosen not to worship. In fact, the wider story of these two sisters shows traits of the other two. She's a Palestinian peasant who offers food to Jesus that, presumably, she cannot afford, so there's an element of sacrifice about it. Jesus says he would prefer her attention instead, which gives us a clue to the Christian take on worship. And later in the Gospel she will see Jesus raise her brother from death to life and will be stunned and amazed and (probably) scared witless. But she gives him worth.

St Paul seems to supply the connecting argument in the chain when he says, 'we may present everyone mature in Christ'. To paraphrase, 'We're not merely going to give to God from our property but give Him ourselves. We will Give Him the entire Church congregation. He is God and deserves only the best so we'll ensure that we are fully converted and thoroughly sanctified'. True worship has moved from killing a sheep or giving money at the Temple gate. To quote again from St Paul (this time in Romans 12): 'Dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give yourselves to God. Let your lives be a living sacrifice, holy—the kind he can accept.'

Worship, then, is giving worth. We can give of ourselves, our possessions and our talents, our gifts, and our foibles. Jesus is saying that anything can be worship—sitting here in rapt adoration is worship and pondering the creation of time itself is worship. Giving him our time is worship and giving him our house when we die or our prayers in a few moment ... all is worship. It's not the thing that is given but

the intent with which we offer it. In this mindset, the child with a heart full of love for God offers more than the billionaire renovating an old cathedral.

Today's readings suggest a great many ways of thinking about God: He is a Trinity; He requires sacrifice; He is cosmic and creates on a staggering scale; He lives in us in the form of His Spirit; He resides in the Church; He is a friend; He rests and talks with us and enjoys us. But each of these forms of God require a response. We must therefore ensure that our responses each involve a sense of worship—giving worth to God.

## 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

Lord, we give you ourselves: we are yours. Inspire us to worship in ways informed by your majesty and worth.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All Hear our prayer.**

Lord, we give you the Church, it is yours. Inspire it to give its everything in ways that speak of your holiness.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All Hear our prayer.**

Lord, we give you the world, it is yours. Take it and improve it, that its life may more fully recognise and respond to your will.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All Hear our prayer.**

Lord, we give you our friends and families, they are yours. Forgive and heal them, that they may better live their lives fully in you.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All Hear our prayer.**

Lord, we give you those who have died who are yours. Care for their souls and comfort those who mourn.

Lord, in your mercy.

**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 When I survey the wondrous Cross**

**When I survey the wondrous Cross**

**When I survey the wondrous Cross**

[\(click to hear the hymn\)](#)

[\(different tune\)](#)

[\(again, a different tune\)](#)

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 All I once held dear**  
**All I once held dear**

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

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**

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.