

Sunday 31 July 2022

The Seventh Sunday after Trinity



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Sermon © Rosie Kingham.

Prayers of intercession © various.

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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 things bright and beautiful](#) (click on this link to hear the hymn)
[All things bright and beautiful](#) (different version)

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 Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Lord of all power and might,
the author and giver of all good things:
graft in our hearts the love of your name,
increase in us true religion,
nourish us with all goodness,
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;
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 Hosea

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. The more I called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and offering incense to idols. Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them. They shall return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me. The sword rages in their cities, it consumes their oracle-priests, and devours because of their schemes. My people are bent on turning away from me. To the Most High they call, but he does not raise them up at all.

How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. I will not execute my fierce anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and no mortal, the Holy One in your

midst, and I will not come in wrath. They shall go after the Lord, who roars like a lion; when he roars, his children shall come trembling from the west. They shall come trembling like birds from Egypt, and like doves from the land of Assyria; and I will return them to their homes, says the Lord. *Hosea 11:1-11*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Colossians

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life.

But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

Colossians 3:1-11

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 2 And can it be?

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

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

All Glory to you O Lord.

Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.' But he said to him, 'Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?' And he said to them, 'Take care! Be on your guard against all

kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.'

Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.' *Luke 12:13-21*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

In my long and varied experience of public worship, I have heard the Word of God in many styles. And to be frank, there are some hymns/songs/translations of the Bible where I have to remind myself that the story is always the same, even if I don't like the way it's told. Sometimes, however, I come across a real gem that speaks directly to the centre of my faith and perception of who God is and what He wants us to do. Today's collect is one of these gems, and it's worth repeating and expanding. 'Lord of all power and might'—just think for a few minutes and reflect on the vastness and complexity of God's creation, the amazing variety of galaxies, stars, suns, planets and life on our own tiny but blessed corner of the universe. 'The author and giver of all good things'—The sun and the rain that nourish our crops are for all of us, and there are blessings He gives to individuals; friends, family, income; He is a generous God who gives, and gives, and gives again, even to the ultimate 'good thing' of eternal life in Christ.

'Graft in our hearts the love of your name'. Any gardener will tell you what a delicate process grafting is. It involves cutting out old stuff, tying the new shoot in and constantly nourishing the plant. So we have to cut out a lot of old stuff in order to get closer to God, to become part of Him and for Him to become part of us. Last week we reflected on the Lord's Prayer as Jesus taught His disciples, so we know that the best way to constantly nourish the graft is by prayer and especially prayer for a deeper understanding of God,

'Increase in us true religion' brings up the question does True Religion actually mean? Well, true religion is being more Christlike, compassionate, sacrificial and faithful, putting others before self and seeking His kingdom above all else. We see Jesus explaining this in the Gospel. What we have is a family falling out over money.

One son hasn't got what he thinks is his fair share, and so calls out from the crowd for Jesus to sort things out. But Jesus isn't interested in playing the role of judge in a family spat. Instead, he drills down to what he knows to be the heart of the matter, giving everybody who's gathered around him a warning to be on our guard against all kinds of greed. Now, we all know that greed can be a real problem. But we'd all say that we are not greedy ourselves—well, at least, not as greedy as (insert name here....). But Jesus hasn't finished. He continues his warning with these words. 'One's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.' And then as now everybody wonders, 'What does he mean exactly by *abundance*?' And it's a good question. How much is enough?

Jesus answers our question about abundance by telling us a story about a rich man who had a bumper crop with more food than he could possibly consume. It is obvious that the rich man is totally self-centred. He's always talking to *himself*. Always thinking about *himself*. 'I'll tear down *my* barns and build new ones and store all *my* grain and all *my* goods.' My, my, my. Not once does he stop to thank God for what's happened. Nor does he think to share the bumper crop with those who have little to eat. Instead, with all the food tucked away safely in his brand new barns, he says to his soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years, so relax, eat, drink, be merry!' For the rich man in this parable, there is no God nor a duty to care for the poor. He hasn't even realised what Ecclesiastes knew well, that whatever pleasures life affords you, we will all of us die. All the money we've earned and tucked away, we can't take a penny of it with us.

But then in a heartbeat, everything changes. God shows up. 'You fool!' God says, 'This very night your life is being demanded of you.' The rich man had completely forgotten or never understood that life itself is a gift. And all the food in the world, all the money, all the abundance of possessions, none of it will be of any use or comfort when we're dead. With that Jesus turns to the crowd and tells them, 'So it is for those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.' And this isn't an isolated bit of Jesus' teaching. In fact, throughout the gospels, Jesus makes clear that it's a choice. It's either God or wealth. Only one can occupy the top spot in our lives, and we must not make wealth our functional God, mistakenly looking to it to provide us with security, identity and self-worth.

This feels very difficult for us, living as we do in one of the richest countries of the world. If you're like me, you want the phone, the big TV, the dishwasher, the snazzy American-style fridge, the fancy oven the holiday. Just sit back and relax, eat, drink ... hang on, that sounds familiar ... Now, whether these desires are built-in or come as a result of our seeing adverts or friends / neighbours / influencers who have the things we **MUST HAVE**, this helps explain why it is so hard to judge where the line is between just having possessions and having an abundance of possessions.

That line is *greed*. Our point of reference has changed, from God to people we admire or whom we unwittingly imitate. Their desires become our desires. The phone, the clothes, the car, the house, the holiday, whatever it may be that we see them desiring, we too find ourselves desiring. As individual members of the church, the Body of Christ, we have a choice before us. We can either imitate the desires of the world around us, like the rich man in the Gospel, or we can let the desires of our hearts be shaped into the desires of God's heart and store up treasure in Heaven, in God's kingdom.

And this is where 'nourish us with all goodness and of your great mercy keep us in the same' comes in. God sent His Holy Spirit to inspire and feed us, because we're always going to have our desires shaped by the desires of others. What matters is who that other is. If it's God the Holy Spirit shaping our desires, then by being part of the church, we will imitate each other, and the desires we're imitating together slowly transform into the desires of Our Heavenly Father, the same desires for the world that we see embodied in Jesus. We will be able to ask, when we find ourselves really wanting something, am I doing this because it is obviously what God desires and so it's the right way to spend my money? The Holy Spirit sustains us and reminds us of God's wonderful presence, so we can always stay within God's loving arms, aware of His purpose for us and striving for His kingdom, and will gradually transform us and our desires into a reflection of Christ on earth, if we let him.

And when we feel lost, or angry, or conflicted, there's only one way out. Prayer. Remembering God's bounty and our love for Him, and asking for the grace to become more Christlike, taking account of the weak, the helpless and the starving. So:

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

Lord Jesus Christ, as those who are sick we come to the physician of life; as unclean, to the fountain of mercy; as blind, to the light of eternal splendour; as needy, to the Lord of heaven and earth; and as naked, to the king of glory. *St Thomas Aquinas*

All Amen

May we see your glory, O God, in all your works. May we feel your presence in all circumstances and may we hold to you through times of good and ill; through Christ our Lord. *George Ridding*

All Amen

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,
my memory, my understanding,
and my entire will,
All I have and call my own.
You have given all to me.
To you, Lord, I return it.

Everything is yours; do with it what you will.

Give me only your love and your grace,
that is enough for me. *Ignatius Loyola*

All Amen

Strengthen us, O God, to relieve the oppressed, to hear the groans of poor prisoners, to reform the abuses of all professions; that many be made not poor to make a few rich. For Jesus Christ's sake.

Oliver Cromwell, adapted from a letter written after the battle of Dunbar

All Amen

Guide and rule your church forever, Lord, that it may walk warily in times of quiet and boldly in times of trouble. Through our Lord, Jesus Christ. *Franciscan Breviary*

All Amen

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 Brightest and best

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

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 Christ whose glory fills the skies [\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

Christ whose glory fills the skies [\(different version\)](#)

Christ whose glory fills the skies [\(another version\)](#)

Christ whose glory fills the skies [\(and another version\)](#)

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

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life,
ever giving himself that the world may live:
may we so receive within ourselves
the power of his death and passion
that, in his saving cup,
we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

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.