

**Sunday 9 June 2024**

# The Second Sunday after Trinity



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**Prayers of intercession** © Lay Anglicana (in part).

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The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration are included at the end.

The hymn can be accessed via a YouTube link. Please click on the links.

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 hail the power of Jesus' name](#) (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**

**All** Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

### **The Collect for the Second Sunday after Trinity**

Lord, you have taught us  
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:  
send your Holy Spirit  
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,  
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,  
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.  
Grant this for your only Son 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 First Book of Moses called Genesis

The man and the woman heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' [The man] said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.'

[God] said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.'

The Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the

woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'

To the woman he said, 'I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.'

And to the man he said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'

The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the Lord God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them.

*Genesis 3:8–15*

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

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture —'I believed, and so I spoke'—we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

*2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1*

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 Mark

**All**    **Glory to you O Lord.**

The crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When [Jesus'] family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.' And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, 'He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.' And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

'Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin'—for they had said, 'He has an unclean spirit.'

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.' And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'

*Mark 3:20-35*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

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

## Sermon

Have you wondered, if God is going to bring blessing into my life, why do I seem to have so many struggles? We all have times of struggle and testing, and the Lord has a purpose in not allowing us to be fruitful at all times. These times of struggle work to destroy the pride we have in our own abilities and reinforces our dependency on God.

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 4:17: He writes about slight affliction, which is but for a moment. Basically, Paul is letting us know that times of struggle and testing will pass. This is a time we cannot alter, but a time we have to live out. Let me explain what I mean and, to that end, we'll compare ourselves to the seasons of a tree. During the winter, a forest silently refurbishes its strength; it is a time of

preparation for the next season of fruitfulness. Its branches will rock in the wind, the sap and substance of the tree in the winter go underground, but it is not good-bye, for in the spring it will push its way up into the budding of a new experience.

So temporary setbacks create opportunities for fresh commitment and renewal. We will have our seasons of sunshine as well as our seasons of rain, for each stage has its purpose. And have we all encountered the temptation to make a permanent decision based on temporary circumstances? Our temporary circumstances do not necessarily require action, they do however, require prayer, and prayer will bring us into patience during this time. Patience is developed through trust, and we cannot trust a God we do not talk with. Prayer is the seasoning of good judgment.

God promises in Habakkuk 2:3, for the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie, wait for it, because it will surely come,

We all seemingly struggle in waiting for the appointment we have with our destiny. A destiny that God has set in motion, before the foundations of the earth, a predetermined appointment to bring His promise in our lives. Though the winds of adversity may blow against us, God has already set an appointment with us in times past, God has already prepared a way of escape for the season of struggle and when we have the peace of God, knowing our deliverance is at hand, then we also have the assurance there is nothing the enemy can do to abort God's plan.

Peace then comes when we know there is nothing we can do to rush God's plan, for when the Lord speaks into our life, it is like a seed. A seed takes time to sprout, and peace is knowing that God will bring the seed to germination, if we will allow Him. We have confidence in God's seed. It is not by human might or power, but by the Spirit of the Lord (Zechariah 4:6).

I have an appointment with destiny, and so do you. God has a purpose for my life it is this awareness of that God has a purpose for my life that causes me to rise out of bed every morning, that causes me to fight for my very survival in a hostile world, and realise It is not over until God says, 'It's over.'

Speaking to all parents and grandparents, it is important as parents to instill a sense of destiny in our children and grandchildren. Once they realise they have immeasurable potential, there is no stopping them. This is not to say they might not deviate from the path that all of us have experienced at one time or another. But thank God they have a path to deviate from. There are so many children today who do not have a path to look at because their parents and grandparents have not spoken about the truth of Christ in their lives.

In Genesis 3:15, God made a promise to Eve after she had eaten the forbidden fruit in Eden. God said, 'And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall

bruise him on the heel'. Although God was addressing Satan in this passage, there is included in this a promise to Eve she was going to have offspring. In Chapter 4 we read of the story of Cain and Abel and how Eve's dreams lay dead in ruin, Cain was now a criminal, and Abel a corpse. Yet God turned Eve's feeling of failure around. She was blessed with another son, Seth. In holding Seth, Eve knew the sovereignty of God, that what He declares shall surely come to pass.

Friends, be aware the evil one will come and try to delay the fulfilment of the promise of God in your life. Be confident in this, there are no demons or devils that can stop it from happening. God has a blessing for you! It may not come the way you thought it might come, or even through the person you thought God would use to bring it. It may be delayed, but it cannot be denied. God purpose was not aborted when Cain killed Abel. We all know life has its broken pieces, but ultimately what God has said will come to pass. When we are going through loss, when we are suffering in the present, we cannot allow the past and present circumstances to abort our future opportunity. God has a way of restoring things back to us that we thought we would never see again.

Each of us come into this world, aware of the fact we have a limited amount of time to accomplish things in our lives. It isn't long before we are confronted with the reality of death. Be it a goldfish, a hamster, the death of a grandparent, friend or relative. Through this, hopefully we grow to understand it is not the quantity of our life, the length of our life, but the quality of our life that counts. When death pushes us through the window of eternity, we want to feel like we have accomplished something worthwhile with our lives and feel like our lives made a positive statement.

It would be terrible to look back over life and see the many times you thought your requests to God were denied, but they were actually only delayed. Life will always present us with broken places, places of struggles and conflict, and if you have a divine purpose that has been put on hold, hang on! Stay on the line until life gets back to you.

The real test of our faith comes in facing the silence of being on hold. All of us have faced days where we thought God had forgotten us, moments that have seemed like eternity, where our patience has received a real workout, when God's answer was no answer, when we have come to a place of understanding the silence of God to mean it is not meant to happen right now. This is when we begin to learn and understand more of God's timing, not our own. And the question is not do you have enough faith to receive, but do you have enough faith to assume a holding pattern and wait for the fulfilment of the promise.



We can experience a deep sense of contentment when we know God has not forgotten us. When we are struggling, consider the words of Genesis 8:1, 'But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the cattle that were with him in the ark; and God caused a wind to pass over the earth, and the water subsided'. Before Noah ran out of resources and provisions, God remembered him! The Lord knows where we are, and He knows how much we have left in reserve. Just before we run out, God will send the wind to blow back the waters of impossibility and provide for us.

Sometimes, as mortal beings, we need to be reminded that God is still sovereign, and he will bring great joy to the heart of anyone who is in a holding pattern. God does not forget, he knows us more than we can comprehend. God does not forget our Kingdom work and the love which we show toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. As our creator and Lord, our Father will know all our needs.

Do you realise that God's records are so complete that he knows the very number of hairs on your head? They are not just counted, for counting would mean He simply knows how many hairs; the Bible tells us the hairs of our head are numbered which means He knows the number or numbers of hairs that are in your brush or comb as well.

And if God knows the number of hairs, He also knows your family, your tithe, your faithfulness. When Noah had been held up long enough to accomplish what was necessary for his good, God sent the wind.

Regardless of the obstacles in your life, there is a wind from Heaven, a wind of God that can bring you out. You need to allow the wind of the Lord to blow down upon you., to blow away every spirit of fear and heaviness that would cause you to give up on what God has promised you. Acts 2 describes the Holy Spirit as a mighty rushing wind--and for every problem you have in your life, there is a mighty rushing wind preparing to blow. It is going to blow back the Red Sea, it will roll back the Jordan River, it will blow dry the wet marshy flooded lands as it did in the day of Noah. It will blow a supernatural blessing onto your life.

God's word is still ultra-effective against every current event in your life. It is time to let the River of God free to flow in your life, to feel the breeze of the Holy Spirit right now!

## 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 take inspiration from one of the readings set for today: St Paul's second letter to the Corinthians.) Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith.

### The Church of Christ

To ask that your Holy Spirit will guide your Church as we come out of Covid lockdowns: help us to incorporate new insights without losing sight of eternal truths. Inspire us to work together in unity as the Body of Christ for the coming of your Kingdom.

*We look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen, for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.*

Lord, in your mercy

**All hear our prayer.**

**Creation, human society, the Sovereign and those in authority**

As the pace of these changes seems to increase with every passing day, help us to draw strength from your eternal changelessness.

Give wisdom to all in authority; and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and of peace; that we may honour one another, and seek the common good. As our hopes for constructive change look threatened yet again, we ask you now to be with the people in the midst of their present sufferings, and to give them hope for their future.

*We look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen.*

Lord, in your mercy

**All** hear our prayer.

**Those who suffer**

Comfort and heal those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. In particular for ... Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray with St Paul that they: *do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.*

*We look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen.*

Lord, in your mercy

**All** hear our prayer.

**The communion of saints**

We thank you, Lord, that what looks like death to the caterpillar looks like new birth to the butterfly. As St Paul says, *if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.* We commend into your hands all those who have been through this change ...

*We look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen.*

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

The peace to this house from God our heavenly Father.  
The peace to this house from his Son who is our peace.  
The peace to this house from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All**    **And also with you**

**HYMN 3**    **By faith**

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

## The Dismissal

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you  
    and give you his peace;  
and the blessing of God the Almighty:  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**All**    **Amen.**

**HYMN 4**    **Beauty for brokenness**

(please 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**

Loving Father,  
we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son:  
sustain us with your Spirit,  
that we may serve you here on earth  
until our joy is complete in heaven,  
and we share in the eternal banquet  
with 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.