

**Sunday 6 October 2024**

# Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity



**Sermon** © The Revd Robin Wilding.

**Liturgy** © 2000 The Archbishops' Council

**Prayers of intercession** © Revd Dr Paul Monk.

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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** [As we are gathered, Jesus is here](#) (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 Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity**

O God, forasmuch as without you  
we are not able to please you;  
mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit  
may in all things direct and rule our hearts;  
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.**

### **Psalm**

- 1 *O Lord our governor, ♦  
how glorious is your name in all the world!*
- 2 Your majesty above the heavens is praised ♦  
out of the mouths of babes at the breast.
- 3 You have founded a stronghold against your foes, ♦  
that you might still the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, ♦  
the moon and the stars that you have ordained,
- 5 What is man, that you should be mindful of him; ♦  
the son of man, that you should seek him out?
- 6 You have made him little lower than the angels ♦

and crown him with glory and honour.

7 You have given him dominion over the works of your hands ♦  
and put all things under his feet,

8 All sheep and oxen, ♦  
even the wild beasts of the field,

9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea ♦  
and whatsoever moves in the paths of the sea.

10 *O Lord our governor, ♦  
how glorious is your name in all the world!*

*Psalm 8*

## First reading

A reading from the First Book of Moses called Genesis

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.' So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

'This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
this one shall be called Woman,  
for out of Man this one was taken.'

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

*Genesis 2:18-24*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Second reading

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere, 'What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honour, subjecting all things under their feet.' Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.'

*Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN2**    **Come holy Ghost, our souls inspire**  
**Come holy Ghost, our souls inspire**

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

## Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

**All**    **Glory to you O Lord.**

Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?' He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' They said, 'Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.' But Jesus said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.'

Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, 'Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.'

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. *Mark 10:2-16*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

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

## Sermon

Psalm 8 is a great Psalm of praise but also points us to God's calling on man to partner with him—and further to something deeper!

My great cry when it comes to scripture is 'Context, context. Context!' and that is true also in the psalms—here the preceding Psalms are cries of struggle and difficult, where are you psalms. This one seeks to lift our eyes up above the struggle to see things from a different perspective – and we all need that at times, don't we?



**How majestic he is!**

The opening stresses God's overarching splendour. The great God, the glorious God majestic, awesome and wonderful. But there is also a subtle extra that we may miss. Glorious in splendour but also the covenant making God (LORD points us to the name of God given to Moses) and also the proclamation that he is OUR God – not some great power far above but that greatness is in relationship to us. Wow.

**Praise and its importance**

His glory might be great but the overflow of wonder from the innocent, the weak and the fragile proves to be the channel for that glory to impact the world. When Israel or the church tried to use earthly power to gain victory they made their greatest mistakes—true victory has so often really been achieved by the insignificant, the small, giving themselves that his kingdom might come. It's in our surrender of ourselves that God can truly work to change hearts and lives. There's hope and a challenge for all of us here.

**What is man?**

Man is called by God to have a high place in his plans and actions in the world. There's an old word, vicegerent, that describes this role a sort of super ambassador—not just to represent but to act on behalf of the Lord. A very high responsibility—called by God to rule, called by God to responsibility.

A quick aside: there are some interesting views of man in the environmental movement. It can get quite theological at times and not in a good way: the earth itself is raised towards godhood (the so-called 'Gaia hypothesis') and man is considered as a stain upon the earth and altogether bad for it. A very different view of man's place and responsibility than what we have been looking at.

Made a little lower than the angels, crowned with glory. Man is given a place by God, a role to play, a duty to perform, an importance and value that leads to us sharing something of his glory.

**Son of man**

But there is also a pointer to something even more profound and world changing. Is it any accident that Jesus referred to himself as the Son of Man? No. Hebrews 2 actually uses this Psalm as a pointer to Jesus and his work.

And his story reveals to us that this majestic, glorious God is in fact not distant from our struggles and our suffering. He comes in Jesus to take on himself the failures of man to live up to God's call and standards, the suffering than man experiences he bears on his shoulders, and he even willingly takes on himself our



death that he might share his life and love with if only we would cast ourselves upon him and his answers. To seek and save the lost.

### **Such glory**

The Psalmist finishes with a return to the start - Lord our Lord how majestic. But for us that glory is now enhanced and magnified as we realise the greatness of his character and his love for us. Let us adore. Let us follow. Let us seek to respond to his gift of grace with ourselves and our lives.

## **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

These prayers are inspired by Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Matthew records it in chapters 5–7 of his Gospel.

Jesus taught that his disciples how to pray (*Matthew 6:5–13*). Teach us how to pray, keep reminding us to pray. Help our relationships with you to grow.

Lord in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

Jesus taught that we are we will see God if we are pure in heart (*Matthew 5:8*). Make us pure so that we can see you as you really are. Heal in us any ideas and images of you that are false and unworthy.

Lord in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

Jesus taught that he came to fulfil the law (*Matthew 5:17*). Lord, we ask you to empower us to live lives that are worthy of the Gospel and forgive us when we do not.

Lord in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

Jesus taught that we should not store up treasures on earth (*Matthew 6:19*). We pray for the world and our relationships with it. Teach us how to live with fewer possessions, and help those in the world who have too little.

Lord in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

Jesus taught that we should be salt and light (*Matthew 5:13*). We pray for our Christian witness and for those who see us.

Lord in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

Jesus taught that we should love our enemies and pray for those who despise us (*Matthew 5:44*). We pray for our enemies and those who do wrong. Help us grow in love, and give us the courage to take our love to the loveless.

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 Come Jesus, prince of peace**      [\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

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,  
be with you now and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

**HYMN 4 Holy, holy, holy**      [\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

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**

Holy and blessed God,  
you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son  
and filled us with your Holy Spirit:  
may we honour you,  
not only with our lips  
but in lives dedicated to the service  
of 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.