

A Service of the Word — September 13, 2020

This service is taken from the Supplementary to the Book of Alternative Services produced through Faith Worship and Ministry of the Anglican Church of Canada in 1995

All stand.

Officiant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

We thank you, O God, that you have again brought us together on the Lord's Day to praise you for your goodness and to ask your blessing. Give us grace to see your hand in the week that is past, and your purpose in the week to come; through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Officiant: Dear friends in Christ,
as we turn our hearts and minds to worship almighty God,
let us confess our sins.

***People: Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.***

Officiant: Merciful God, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

A hymn of praise may be sung.

Opening Hymn: All Creatures of our God and King

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing;
alleluia, alleluia!

Bright burning sun and golden beams,
pale silver moon that gently gleams,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Earth ever fertile, day by day
unfold your blessings on our way,
O sing now, alleluia!
All flowers and fruit that in you grow,
God's glory let them also show:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All you with mercy in your heart,
forgiving others, take your part,
alleluia, alleluia!
All you that pain and sorrow bear,
sing praise and cast on God your care;
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their creator bless,
and worship God in humbleness,
alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three-in-One
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Collect of the Day.

Almighty God, you call your Church to witness that in Christ we are reconciled to you. Help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may turn to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word *The Scripture lessons from the Sunday eucharistic lectionary are read.*

First Reading: Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

So then, each of us will be accountable to God

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 114

Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt, *

the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

Judah became God's sanctuary *

and Israel his dominion.

The sea beheld it and fled; *

Jordan turned and went back.

The mountains skipped like rams, *

and the little hills like young sheep.

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *

O Jordan, that you turned back?

You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *

you little hills like young sheep?

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *

at the presence of the God of Jacob.

Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *

and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

Source of all life, you have brought us to new being through the waters of baptism. May your love shown in our lives become a wonder and a beacon of hope to the whole human family. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35.

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Gospel of Christ

People: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

A sermon or other comment on the readings is delivered. Where no preacher is designated, members of the congregation may wish to share brief reflections on the day's scriptures.

The officiant invites the people, in these or similar words, to join in reciting the Apostles' Creed.

Officiant Let us confess our faith as we say,

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

The officiant or another member of the community leads the prayers, using the following or another authorized form.

Leader: Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, hear our prayers for your world and your church.

Silence

You are the Prince of Peace; bring peace to your broken, bleeding world, that war and division may cease and your people live in safety and security.

Jesus, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are the Wisdom of God; give insight to the leaders of the nations, that they may govern wisely and your people everywhere enjoy dignity and justice.

Jesus, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are the Saviour of the World; increase the faith of your people, that we may burn with love for you and proclaim your gospel in all the world.

Jesus, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life; lead us in your way and guide us in your truth, that we may live in love for you and for each other.

Jesus, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are the Close Companion of the lonely; keep company with the friendless, that they may feel your loving presence and know that they are not alone.

Jesus, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are the Comfort of the broken-hearted; sit with the sorrowing, that in their distress they may know your consolation and be comforted.

Jesus, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are the Healer of the suffering; bring release to those in anguish of body, mind, or spirit, that in their pain they may know your peace.

Jesus, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are the Resurrection and the Life; raise us out of death to life, that with all those who in every age have recognized you as the Messiah, we may dwell forever in your presence.

Jesus, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

This concluding prayer can then be said:

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go forward with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A hymn may be sung, during which the offerings of the people are collected and presented.

Offertory Hymn: Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works

Many and great, O God are your works, maker of earth and sky.

Your hands have set the heavens with stars,

your fingers spread the mountains and plains.

Lo, at your word the waters were formed; deep seas obey your voice.

Grant unto us communion with you, O star abiding One,

Come unto us and dwell with us

with you are found the gifts of life.

Bless us with life that has no end, eternal life with you.

When the offering is placed on the altar or other suitable place, all say:

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

The officiant leads the concluding prayers, using either the Prayer of St. John Chrysostom and the Lord's Prayer or the Lord's Prayer and the Doxology:

Officiant And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,
in the language that is closest to our heart, we are bold to say,

**All. Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Doxology

Officiant Glory to God

**All: whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.**

**Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Officiant: May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing
through the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Closing Hymn: How Firm A Foundation

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
To you who to Jesus for refuge have fled!

“Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed!
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace all sufficient, shall be they supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not — I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
I’ll never - no never - no, never forsake!”