

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Trinity 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020  
**Gathering and Greeting**

*Please stand*

We meet in the presence of God  
**All who knows our needs,  
hears our cries,  
feels our pain,  
and heals our wounds.**

*Silence is kept.*

We stand before the throne of God  
with countless crowds  
from every nation and race, tribe and language.  
**All Blessing and glory and wisdom,  
thanksgiving and honour, power and might  
be to our God for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

*Opening sentences*

One thing we have asked of the Lord,  
**All this is what we seek:  
that we may dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of our life;  
to behold the beauty of the Lord  
and to seek Him in His temple.**

Who is it that you seek?  
**All We seek the Lord our God.**  
Do you seek Him with all your heart?  
**All Amen. Lord, have mercy.**  
Do you seek Him with all your soul?  
**All Amen. Lord, have mercy.**  
Do you seek Him with all your mind?  
**All Amen. Lord, have mercy.**  
Do you seek Him with all your strength?  
**All Amen. Christ, have mercy.**

## Confession and Absolution

*Please sit or kneel*

Since we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses,  
let us also lay aside every weight  
and the sin that clings so closely,  
looking to Jesus in penitence and faith.

*cf Hebrews 12.1*

**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.**

## Praise and Thanksgiving

*Please stand*

Jesus reigns in glory now.

**All We worship and adore you.**

We worship and adore you with angels and archangels  
and all the company of heaven, *saying*:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Be still for the presence of the Lord

The Holy One is here

**All Come bow before Him now  
With reverence and fear  
In Him no sin is found  
We stand on holy ground  
Be still for the presence of the Lord  
The Holy One is here**

Be still for the glory of the Lord

Is shining all around

**All He burns with holy fire  
With splendour He is crowned  
How awesome is the sight  
Our radiant King of light  
Be still for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around**

Be still for the power of the Lord

Is moving in this place

**All He comes to cleanse and heal  
To minister His grace  
No work too hard for Him  
In faith receive from Him  
Be still for the power of the Lord  
Is moving in this place**

*Please sit or kneel*

**Motet** - *The Mystery of Christ* by Composed and conducted by Chris Totney - Sung by the Choir of St John's Church Devizes

*I have long time holden my peace: now will I cry.  
I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not;  
I will lead them in paths that they have not known:  
I will make darkness light before them, and not forsake them.*

*And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal,  
And on either side of the river was there the tree of life:  
And the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

*Continue in prayer, and watch in the same;  
That God would open unto us a door of utterance  
To speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:  
That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.*

*I have long time holden my peace: now will I cry.  
That God would open unto us a door of utterance  
To speak the mystery of Christ,*

Isaiah 42: 14, 16; Revelation 22: 1–2; Colossians 4: 2–4

### **Collect**

Let us pray, with one heart and mind.

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.

## **Epistle - Romans 8.26-39**

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

For the word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God**

## **Psalm 86** – *Sung by Wells Cathedral Choir*

1. BLESSED are all they that fear the LORD, and walk in his ways.
2. For thou shalt eat the labours of thine hands: O well is thee, and happy shalt thou be.
3. Thy wife shall be as the fruitful vine upon the walls of thine house;
4. Thy children like the olive-branches round about thy table.
5. Lo, thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD.
6. The LORD from out of Sion shall so bless thee, that thou shalt see Jerusalem in prosperity all thy life long;
7. Yea, that thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel

## **Gospel Reading** - Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

This is the gospel of the Lord

**All Praise to you O Christ**

**Sermon**

**Music - Organ Voluntary**

**Intercessions**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Affirmation of Faith**

*Please stand*

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**All**    **Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

*cf Philippians 2.6-11*

## Dismissal

We are reminded that Christ humbled himself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: we pray that we may be given the courage to follow the way of Christ, and to proclaim him as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father.

And we pray that there may be given:

To a troubled world

**All peace from Christ.**

To a searching world

**All love from Christ.**

To a waiting world

**All hope from Christ.**

We go in the presence of God

**All who knows our needs,**

**hears our cries,**

**feels our pain,**

**and heals our wounds.**

Therefore, may you go forth into the world in peace.

Be of good courage.

Hold fast that which is good.

Render to no one evil for evil.

Strengthen the fainthearted.

Support the weak.

Help the afflicted.

Show love to everyone.

Love and serve the Lord,

rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;

and the blessing of almighty God,

the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**