

St Cuthbert's, Thetford Sunday 26th July 2020

WELCOME & Notices

President: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

ALL: AMEN.

President: Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

ALL: *and also with you.*

President: We have come together as the family of God in our Father's presence to offer him praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive his holy word to bring before him the needs of the world, to ask his forgiveness for our sins, and to seek his grace, that through his Son Jesus Christ we may give ourselves to his service.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

President: In the first chapter of the First Epistle of John and at verse 8 we read, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Let us therefore 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.*

President: 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. **AMEN.**

President: Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus,

ALL: *giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ.*

President: Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs:

ALL: *let us sing to God with thankful hearts.*

President: Open our lips, Lord:

ALL: *and we shall praise your name.*

**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

The President introduces a period of silent prayer. The Collect for the day is said.

President: 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.

First Reading

Romans 8:26-39

²⁶The 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.

²⁷ 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.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

²⁹ 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.

³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

³² 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?

³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

³⁴ 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.

³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height,³⁹ nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel reading

Matthew 13:31-33;44-52

³¹ Jesus put before the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² 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.'

³³ 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.'

⁴⁴ 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.

⁴⁵ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad.

⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.'

⁵² 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.'

SERMON

PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS

We sit or kneel to pray

President: Let us join in saying the words that Jesus himself taught us,

ALL: *Our Father which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,*

*in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
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.*

Prayers of Intercession

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy
All hear our prayer.

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith.

Strengthen *N* & our bishops and all your church in the service of Christ, that those who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Bless and guide *Elizabeth our Queen*; 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.

Give grace to us, our families and friends, and to all our neighbours, that we may serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit . . . ; give them courage and hope in their troubles; and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Hear us as we remember those who have died in the faith of Christ; according to your promises grant us a share with them in your eternal kingdom.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of [*N and of*] all your saints, we commend ourselves and the whole of creation to your unfailing love.

Merciful Father,
**All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Blessing or Grace

President: Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.