

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – Trinity 7  
Mark 6 v30-34 & 53-end

## Welcome to Praying Together

### **HYMN At the name of Jesus**

- 1 At the name of Jesus  
every knee shall bow,  
every tongue confess him  
King of Glory now:  
'tis the Father's pleasure  
we should call him Lord,  
who from the beginning  
was the mighty Word:
- 2 Humbled for a season,  
to receive a name  
from the lips of sinners  
unto whom he came,  
faithfully he bore it  
spotless to the last,  
brought it back victorious  
when from death he passed.
- 3 Name him, Christians, name him,  
with love strong as death,  
but with awe and wonder,  
and with bated breath;  
he is God the Saviour,  
he is Christ the Lord,

ever to be worshipped,  
trusted and adored.

- 4 Surely, this Lord Jesus  
shall return again,  
with his Father's glory,  
with his angel train;  
for all wreaths of empire  
meet upon his brow,  
and our hearts confess him  
King of Glory now. *Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877)*

### **GATHERING BEFORE GOD**

We are in the presence of the Living God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **CONFESSION.**

St Paul says 'Be imitators of God; love as Christ loved; do not grieve the Holy Spirit, put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice.' So let us confess our sins to God, who forgives us in Christ.

**Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
We confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
Help us to amend what we are and direct what we shall be;  
That we may do justly, love mercy,  
And walk humbly with you, our God. Amen**

**Absolution:** May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.**

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family in heaven and earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.  
We believe in one God; Father Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

Generous God,  
you give us gifts and make them grow:  
though our faith is small as mustard seed,  
make it grow to your glory  
and the flourishing of your kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**BIBLE READINGS:**

**FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 23: 1-6**

**PSALM 23**

**SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 2: 11-END**

**HYMN How deep the Father's love for us**

1 How deep the Father's love for us,  
how vast beyond all measure,  
that he should give his only Son  
to make a wretch his treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss -

the Father turns his face away,  
as wounds which mar the chosen One  
bring many souls to glory.

2 Behold the man upon a cross,  
my sin upon his shoulders;  
ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held him there  
until it was accomplished;  
his dying breath has brought me life -  
I know that it is finished.

3 I will not boast in anything,  
no gifts, no power, no wisdom;  
but I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
his death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from his reward?  
I cannot give an answer;  
but this I know with all my heart -  
his wounds have paid my ransom. *Stuart Townend*

**THE GOSPEL READING: MARK 6 v 30-34 AND 53 – END**

The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized

him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the market-places, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

**SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:**

Have you ever shut yourself away hoping for 5 minutes peace and quiet – just a moment to rest, breath and close your eyes?

We all need a break and moments of rest; whether its children or work or something else, we all have demands on us, and sometimes it feels demanding; even when it is something or someone you love dearly. Rest is important. Time off and time out are crucial. Time to breath, time to stretch our weary bones, time to attend to ourselves.

This is how I read today's Gospel reading; the disciples and Jesus are tired, it's been a busy and demanding time. They need a break; so they hop into a boat to find some space and time out. I almost want to imagine them sneaking off to have a nap and a sandwich. But they didn't get away with it; they were spotted and the crowd followed them.

But, the crowd had real desperate needs, they were sick, they were lost, they were (a little later in the story after another boat trip across the lake) showing compassion and love for one another, bring their sick to the market place for Jesus to heal them.

Jesus, responds with love; the love of God is inexhaustible, unending and very unlike a stressed parent with toddlers and toys under their feet! Jesus is beyond that limitation and responds with all love and all compassion and all power. The disciples (one imagines!) take His lead and respond as much as they are able; but tiredness makes even the most patient saint grumble and sigh. But the crowds continue to flock.

The crowds, the men and women bringing their children, their parents, their neighbours to be healed are seeking something profound. Yes, they are seeking wellness and wholeness (who isn't?) but I think something deeper moved Jesus profoundly. 'They were like sheep, without a shepherd' And Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He calls all sheep, they hear his voice and he gathers them as one.

This is beyond bodily healing, this is about homecoming. But homecoming is a powerful and profound sentiment. The lost sheep who are guided back to the safety of the fold. The lost coin that is searched for and found and treasured. A lost, errant son who is welcomed home with arms outstretched. A lost woman who is given life giving water and valued as a daughter. Lost disciples who do not know the way to the Father are told that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

In Christ we find our home. In Christ we find perfect love and welcome and compassion. In Christ we are enfolded in his love. That is what the crowds wanted. They wanted a safe home, where they are called by name, loved into completeness, and given sweet life-giving water to drink. And they glimpsed this home in Christ.

May you, as you read this today, and ponder these words, hear Jesus calling your name, and may you know his compassionate gaze upon you, and may you also know some peace and rest.

Kate Peacock

As part of our prayers today, you may like to pray the words of this hymn as a prayer for yourself and your need for rest and also for someone (or a family or group of people) who you know who needs a break right now.

## HYMN

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, thou weary one, lay down  
thy head upon my breast.'  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
so weary, worn and sad;  
I found in him a resting place,  
and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'Behold, I freely give  
the living water, thirsty one;  
stoop down and drink and live.'  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'I am this dark world's light;  
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,  
and all thy day be bright.'  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk  
till trav'ling days are done. **Amen.**

## PRAYERS

Blessed are you, Lord God  
You give the increase to our sowing,  
To our work and to our plantings.  
You are the giver of life and life in abundance.  
May we put our faith in your goodness  
and, when we have sown, trust the increase to you.  
Though our faith is often small, it is in a Mighty God.  
Blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We give thanks for those who taught us the faith,  
Who sowed the seed of the Gospel in our hearts,  
We ask your blessing upon preachers and teachers,  
Upon ministers of the word and the sacraments.  
We remember homes where the word of God is sown  
and children are given the chance  
to grow in the kingdom.  
We pray for the Bible Society  
For all who produce and translate the Bible.

*Silence*

Lord our God, **your kingdom come in us as it is in heaven.**

Lord, we long for the time  
when the kingdoms of the world  
will become the kingdom of Christ our Lord.  
May the rulers on earth reflect the gentle and loving rule  
of your kingdom in heaven.  
We pray for all who are striving to do your will  
in their places of work and in their homes,  
for all who witness to you by their way of life.

*Silence*

Lord our God, **your kingdom come in us as it is in heaven.**

We give thanks for those who love us  
and show us through their lives  
a glimpse of your kingdom.

We ask your blessing upon our homes  
and our loved ones.

We remember all who suffer from violence or neglect  
in their homes,

all who feel uncared for or unwanted.

We pray for the lonely

And those who have been taken into care.

*Silence*

Lord our God, **your kingdom come in us as it is in heaven.**

We give thanks for the work of healing in our hospitals  
and through the healing professions.

We pray for our own doctor.

We remember areas of the world where there is little care  
And the problems seem to overwhelm  
those who seek to help.

We remember people caught up in disasters,  
In floods, in drought or in war.

We pray for relief agencies and all who contribute to them.

*Silence*

Lord our God, **your kingdom come in us as it is in heaven.**

We give thanks for all the saints,  
for those who spread the word of God,  
for those who witnessed to your love,  
for those who brought the Gospel to this land.

We remember all our loved ones who are departed from us  
and pray that they may rejoice  
in the fullness of your kingdom.

*Silence*

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

#### A PRAYER CONCERNING THE CORONAVIRUS

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.

in their loneliness, be their consolation;

in their anxiety, be their hope;

in their darkness, be their light;

through him who suffered alone on the cross,

but reigns with you in glory,

Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You  
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment

receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. **Amen.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

**HYMN Guide me, O thou great redeemer**

*Sung by St Martin's voices*

- 1 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty,  
hold me with thy powerful hand:  
bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore.
- 2 Open now the crystal fountain  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through:  
strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield.
- 3 When I tread the verge of Jordan  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee.

*Arglwydd arwain drwy'r anialwch*

*William Williams (1717-1791), tr Peter Williams (1727-1796)*

**FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING**

Lord God, we rejoice in your greatness and power,  
your gentleness and love,  
your mercy and justice.  
Enable us by your Spirit  
to honour you in our thoughts,  
and words and actions,  
and to serve you in every aspect of our lives;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The blessing of God Almighty, The Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with, and  
those you love, now, and for evermore. Amen