

## ST MAXENTIUS WORSHIP AT HOME

### TRINITY 7 - SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> JULY

Here below we have an outline of our service for you to follow at home if you can't be with us. Choose a quiet reflective space and to make it more meaningful have a cross, bible and candle to make your sacred space.



Good morning everyone, I hope you are well. Exciting or nervous times with things opening up after Covid; we are asking you how you feel about its effects on church and asking you to do an online survey; we want it to feel right for everyone and our new curate, Hannah, is going to collate all the data for each church so we can make informed decisions. If you cannot do this on line, there should have been a paper copy with your delivered service sheet.

Thank you to Rev Peter for the reflection today and to Arthur Greaves for the Intercessions. Jan B.

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

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

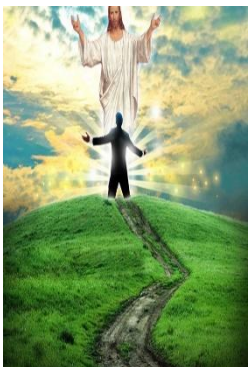
### CONFESSION



**My God, for love of you I desire to hate and forsake all sins by which I have ever displeased you; and I resolve by the help of your grace to commit them no more; and to avoid all opportunities of sin. Help me do this, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the Father forgive us by the death of his Son and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit all our days. **Amen.**

### GLORIA



**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 sins of the world: have mercy upon 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**

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. Amen

## **THE OLD TESTAMENT READING** JEREMIAH 23, 1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the **LORD**. Therefore, thus says the **LORD**, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the **LORD**. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the **LORD**.

The days are surely coming, says the **LORD**, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The **LORD** is our righteousness.' This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

## **THE NEW TESTAMENT READING** EPHESIANS 2,11-22

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called 'the uncircumcision' by those who are called 'the circumcision'—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

## **THE GOSPEL** MARK 6. 30-34. 55-56

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. **Glory to you O Lord.**

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.



This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

### **REFLECTION** by Peter Reiss

Our readings today are a rather “mixed bag” – or so they seem to me. Our gospel reading is a split with the middle (the feeding of the 5000) taken out, because we will hear this when we move to John’s gospel in a week or two. But it is strange to cut out the centre of the sandwich as it were! The theme which links this passage and the Jeremiah passage is Jesus having compassion on the people who are like sheep without a shepherd, or in the case of Jeremiah who have been scattered and driven away by bad shepherds.

Our Ephesians reading continues with a reminder that we have been brought in to the people of God, into God’s flock. Like much of Paul, it is dense and rich and worth savouring, mouthful by mouthful, a bit like a rich fruit-cake, sometimes some hard nuts, sometimes some sweet fruit. So a mixed bag, but much to ponder. As you read the passages what strikes you? What phrase or sentence grabbed your attention? If nothing maybe read them again more slowly.

The world for sheep was a dangerous one- not nice fields full of grass but a dry arid semi-desert area often, with the danger of being lost, of being injured, of being attacked by predators, and the constant need to find food and water. Picture what it would mean to be sheep without a shepherd in that situation. And in our world, which is apparently plush with material things, where food is plentiful (for us), where

water is in the taps, we have found that the world can still feel like somewhere where we are lost, anxious, uncertain. Covid has made things worse, but opening up will make many more anxious.

Navigating life is not easy for many of us, and may we find the Good Shepherd close to us and may we feel close to him. May our churches also be safe places, welcoming places, non-judgemental places; places where the anxious can feel safe. May our church leaders be people who help bring safety, may we be in the midst of the real world; when Hannah was ordained deacon, she was reminded that a deacon is *to reach into the forgotten corners of the world that the love of God may be made visible*, but not just deacons, all of us.

And to return to Paul's letter for a moment, I hope we do know that, because of Jesus we are no longer strangers, but citizens with the saints, members of the household of God, welcomed and secure. And as we know this for ourselves may we share it with others.

A mixed bag, but a bag of goodies! I hope there is something for each of us to draw strength from in these passages. What did you get from your reading of them?

### **THE CREED**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father? **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ? **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, 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.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit? **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.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** by Arthur Greaves



*Here we pray for the church, for the world, those in need and those who have died, you can follow your own prayers or these below on today's theme.*

Like a good shepherd, Jesus sees the needs of his people and always responds with his love.

Lord God, we thank you for your work in the Church, where your followers attempt to be members one of another in the body of your Son. We thank you for those times when you are able to work through us, and for the privilege such responsibility affords. We thank you that you know our frailties. Guide us, O Lord, as we seek to serve you.

Lord in your mercy – **hear our prayer.**

Recognising our brokenness and disunity as your Church, we pray for your leading to draw us closer to one another as we draw closer to you; we pray for all our Christian brothers and sisters in the this neighbourhood, and for all who are searching for meaning in their lives.

Lord in your mercy – **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the family of the Church in our parishes. We pray for your Church throughout the world, that it may be filled with the wine of new life and the fire of the Holy Spirit. Lord in your mercy – **hear our prayer.**

May openness and love take the place of hypocrisy and hate. May generosity and gentleness take the place of greed and aggression and may the world come to know your love and compassion through the work of a loving and compassionate Church.

Lord in your mercy – **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we commend to your love and care those who suffer in mind, body or spirit, especially those known to us whom we hold up to you in silence now. In your goodness and mercy grant them health of body, soundness of mind and peace of heart, that the wholeness of being they may glorify your name.

Lord we lay before you all those who have died. May they rest in peace and rise in glory and you make us a dwelling place for you in the here and now. So may we come to dwell with you for ever. Lord in your mercy – **hear our prayer.**

### ***A prayer of St. Columba:***

Kindle in our hearts, O God, the flame of love that never ceases, that it may burn in us and give life to others. May we shine for ever in your temple, set on fire with your eternal light. See that you are at peace among yourselves and love one another. Take the example of the news of ancient times and God will comfort and aid you both in this world and in the world to come.

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

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**



**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 forever. Amen.**

## **THE BLESSING**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe-

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

From the rising of the sun to its setting, your name is proclaimed in all the world

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

When the time had fully come you sent the Son of righteousness.

**In him the fullness of your glory dwells. To you be glory and praise forever.**

The blessing of God almighty, the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore Amen.

