

WORSHIP AT HOME prepared by St. Maxentius

TRINITY 20, SUNDAY 17 OCTOBER

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.

INTRODUCTION

Good morning everyone, we have had some lovely late summer days but we are definitely into Autumn now, such beautiful colours around our countryside and it reminds us to be ever thankful of our world. Conservation and the environment are constantly on the news and social media and we must all try to do our bit and persuade others to do the same. We might mention our leaders and governments in our prayers, that they make decisions for the good of our world, which God has gifted to us.

The reflection today is by Rev Peter and intercessions by Mike Haslam; thank you to both of them. Jan B.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

COLLECT

God, the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church: by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life; 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 NEW TESTAMENT READING HEBREWS 5, 1-10

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not presume to take this honour, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'; as he says also in another place, 'You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.'

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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

THE GOSPEL MARK 10, 35-44

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

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' And he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.' But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' They replied, 'We are able.' Then Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.'

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

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

REFLECTION

What does it mean that Jesus came to serve and ***give his life as a ransom?*** Kidnapping is thankfully very rare these days for us, but not in all parts of the world. In parts of sub-Saharan Africa, or in Syria, or Central America people are captured and held till a ransom is paid. War-lords, gang-chiefs, even corrupt police will take someone to extort money from the family. That captured person is helpless, trapped, imprisoned.

One of the images that the Bible uses to help us understand, (and it is only one of several images), is that of being ***enslaved to sin***. Our own behaviours trap us, like we are now deep in *debt*, and the behaviours of others can trap us, like we are *kidnapped*. Either way we cannot free ourselves, get right with God. Jesus in his voluntary death, has paid our debts / written off our debts, and has paid the ransom to free us. Some of us may not feel hugely trapped or indebted, but do we really feel we can just wander into the presence of a holy God?

Jesus will go on to tell a story about tenants who decide they want the vineyard for themselves; who will rebel against the landlord - they thought it was theirs; last week a rich man was so entrapped by his possessions that he could not see the offer of an eternal inheritance.

Ransom is only one way to understand, but it is an important image. And for those of us who don't know what it feels like, it may be a bit theoretical. Think of the person freed from a gang, freed from a cell, freed from torture, because someone has paid up, and think even more if that other person were to have paid, not just money but with their life to set you free ..

From the wonderful hymn:

***Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven
– who like me his praise should sing***

there's four words to help us understand. Do we feel some or all of these – can we reflect a bit more on what this really means for us?

Rev Peter

THE CREED

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

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; ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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

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.

Everlasting God, we pray for all who are disciples of Jesus today and ask that The Holy Spirit will pour into our hearts a love for others that transcends human pride, ambition and selfishness. We pray that we may be true to the example of selfless giving and service shown by Jesus who sought always to heal and restore the broken people of our world. **Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

Creator God at this the end of the "Week of Prayer for World Peace" we give you thanks for the way that people of many faiths have prayed together with a common aim. We pray for the Peace of the World, raising before you the countless places and populations who have never enjoyed the peace which we now so often take for granted. Jesus said "Blessed are the Peacemakers for they shall be known as the Children of God" and with this in mind focus world leaders to strive for peace not only internationally but also within their own countries. May peace begin with us, in our homes, with our families and friends as we strive to follow in Jesus' footsteps. **Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

Father God, we pray for our families and friends, our colleagues and neighbours. We pray that in loving and serving those around us we may be working with you to make the kingdom of heaven a reality in this community. **Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

Faithful God, we pray for all who bear the burdens of pain, bereavement, anxiety and depression. We pray that they may have an awareness of your presence bearing those burdens with them and always working towards their healing and wholeness. **Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we place in your loving keeping all those who have died Lord, and we pray that we too may show in our lives the promise of heaven's love, joy and peace and we ask for your comfort and peace to be on all who mourn.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Heavenly Father we thank you that you are always more ready to hear our prayers and to respond to them in ways that are sometimes beyond our expectations or imagination. Help us to be part of your response through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Now may the Lord of peace himself give us peace at all times and in every way.

The Lord be with us all and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

