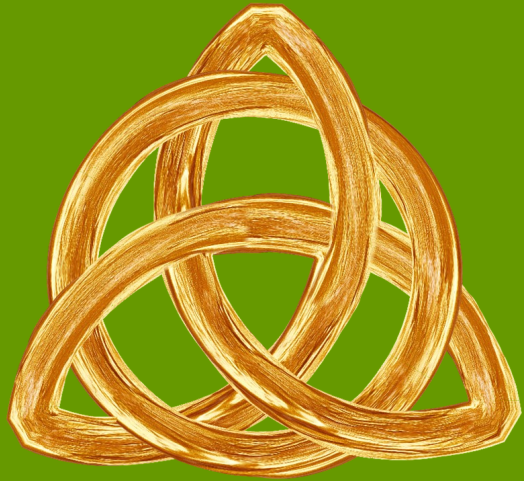


The Blessed Trinity

10 - 14



A Series of Meditation for
St Paul's and St Augustine's

The Blessed Trinity



**A Service of Meditation
St Paul's with St Augustine's**

Introduction

This is the fifth book of our meditations and prayers entitled Blessed Trinity. It takes us from Stations of the Resurrection to Meditations Around the Advent Wreath .

Our devotions have the following format:

- Opening Sentence
- Hymn
- Readings
- Meditation
- Prayers
- Dismissal

The book is designed for guidance and gives you a structure in which to follow the Liturgy of Jesus' teaching according to Luke.

Father, you sent your Word to bring us truth and your Spirit to make us holy. Through them we come to know the mystery of your life. Help us to worship you, one God in three Persons, by proclaiming and living our faith in you. We ask you this, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, true and living, for ever and ever.

We hope you find the service very uplifting and prayerful.

Tenth Sunday After Trinity

Introduction

Lord Christ, as we sit at your feet, teach us your living way; for you are the Word and Wisdom, one God with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen**

Hymn

1. When I needed a neighbour, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter, were you there?

2. I was hungry and thirsty, were you there, were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter, were you there?

3. I was cold, I was naked, were you there, were you there?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter, were you there?

4. When I needed a shelter, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a shelter, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter, were you there?

5. When I needed a healer, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a healer, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter, were you there?

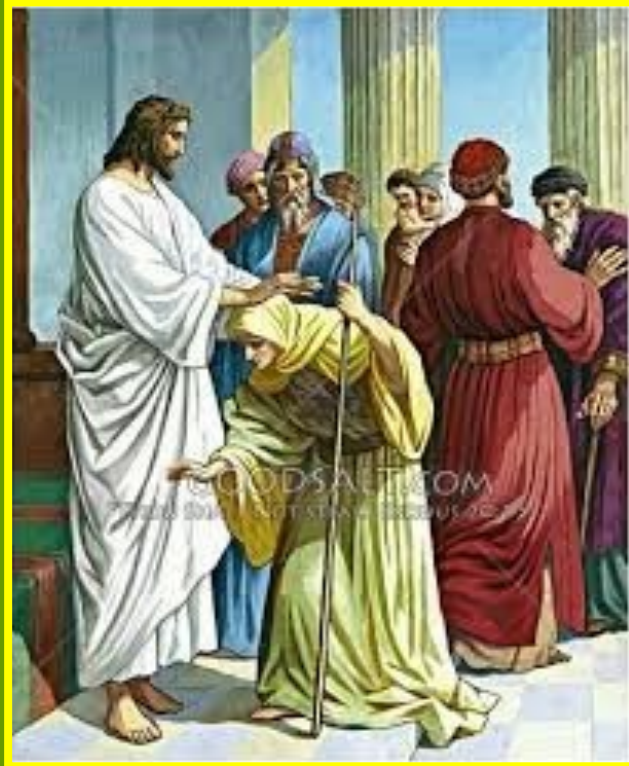
Reading

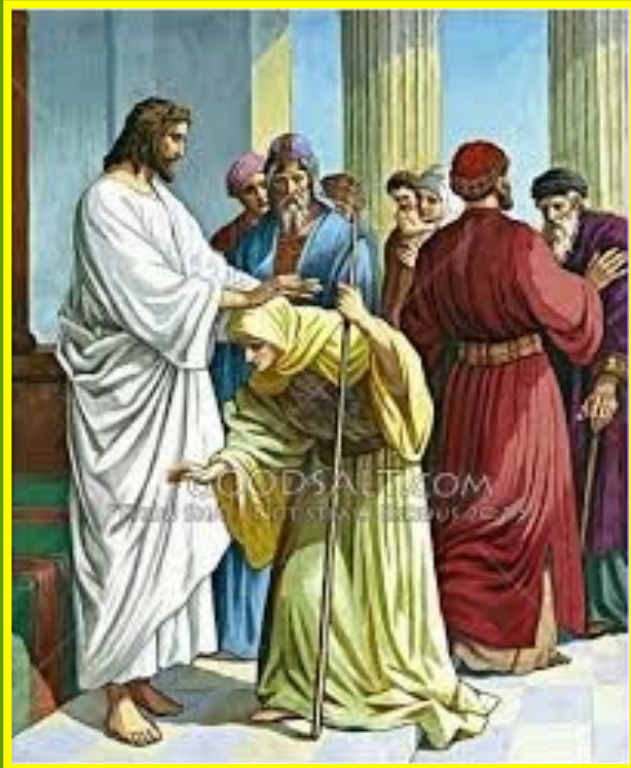
The Word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

"Alas, Sovereign Lord," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young."

But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord. Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and Kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."

Jeremiah 1: 4-10





On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue leader said to the people, "There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath."

The Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?"

When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.

Luke 13: 10-17

Meditation

The story of Jesus healing on the Sabbath and in the synagogue of all places in front of their leader.

A cardinal sin at that time and he was rightly chastised. Jesus did not repent or say sorry but rebuked the leader saying to him you don't really do nothing on the Sabbath you give water to your cattle so why shouldn't I help this poor women, to which the leader had no answer.

Have you ever been in a position to make a big issue of something quite trivial and insignificant?

Were you rebuked and put down?

Did you see the problems you caused for others by your action?

Was Jesus right to rebuke the leader of the synagogue? Would you have done the same?

Prayers

Sing to the Lord a new song
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Holy God, you refuse to be bound by any constraints our limited vision would seek to impose. Transform the poverty of our faith by the riches of your grace ... May your Church be an instrument of blessing and release.

Sing to the Lord a new song
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Holy God, we pray for all who take counsel for nations: for governments and councils, for all whose decisions affect the lives of others ... May justice and righteousness prosper.

Sing to the Lord a new song
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Holy God, you refresh the face of the earth and your people. Pour out your Spirit on all in need of renewal and Sabbath rest ... Restore us in your loving mercy.

Sing to the Lord a new song
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

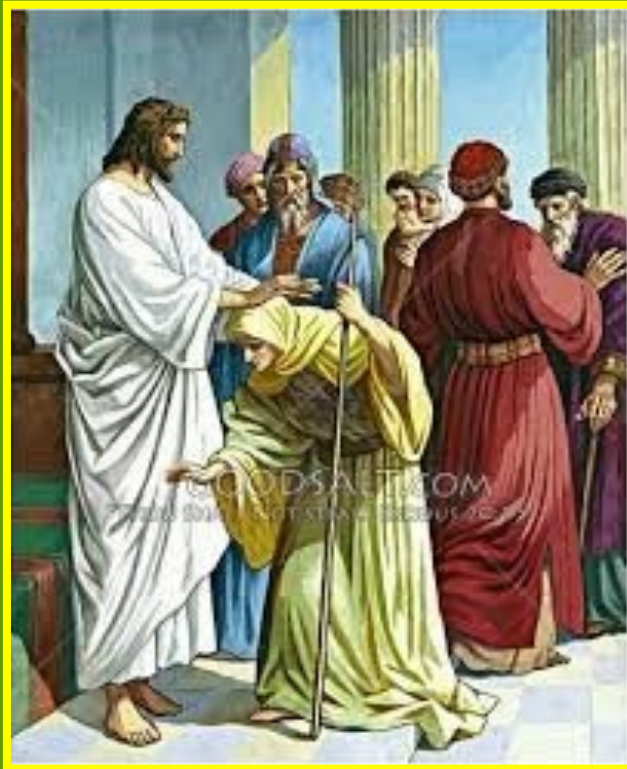
Holy God, you know us from before our birth and hold us through all our days. Be with all whose spirits are weak and who seek to be set free from their ailments ... Bring us to rejoice in the wonders of your healing touch.

Sing to the Lord a new song
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Holy God, you judge the hearts of all with truth and mercy. Look with compassion on those who have died ... May our praise be always of you and our hope in your saving love.

Sing to the Lord a new song
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

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



DISMISSAL

Hymn

1. Brother, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.

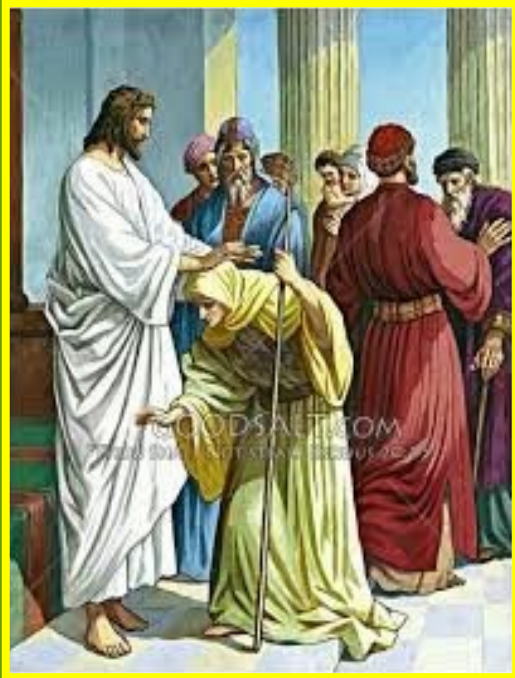
2. We are pilgrims on a journey,
we are brothers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

3. I will hold the Christlight for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

4. I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
'til we've seen this journey through.

5. When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

6. Brother, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.



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 for ever. Amen

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death. Amen

The Grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen

Eleventh Sunday After Trinity

Introduction

Creator God, send your Holy Spirit to renew this living world, that the whole creation in its growing and striving, may know your living purpose and come to reflect your Glory, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn

1. Hills of the north rejoice,
echoing songs arise,
hail with united voice
him who made earth and skies:
he comes in righteousness and love,
he brings salvation from above.

3. Lands of the east arise,
he is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
the God whom you have longed to know
in Christ draws near, and calls you now.

2. Isles of the southern seas,
sing to the listening earth,
Carry on every breeze
hope of a world's new birth:
in Christ shall all be made anew,
his word is sure, his promise true.

4. Shores of the utmost west,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heavenly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
he brings a never-ending light
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

5. Shout, as you journey on,
songs be in every mouth,
Lo, from the north they come,
from east and west and south:
in Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the sons of earth be blest.

Reading

Hear the Word of the Lord, you descendants of Jacob, all you clans of Israel. This is what the Lord says: "What fault did your ancestors find in me, that they strayed so far from me? They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves.

They did not ask, 'Where is the Lord, who brought us up out of Egypt and led us through the barren wilderness, through a land of deserts and ravines, a land of drought and utter darkness, a land where no one travels and no one lives?' I brought you into a fertile land to eat its fruit and rich produce. But you came and defiled my land and made my inheritance detestable. The priests did not ask, 'Where is the Lord?' Those who deal with the law did not know me; the leaders rebelled against me. The prophets prophesied by Baal, following worthless idols.

"Therefore I bring charges against you again," declares the Lord. "And I will bring charges against your children's children. Cross over to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and observe closely; see if there has ever been anything like this: Has a nation ever changed its Gods? (Yet they are not gods at all.) But my people have exchanged their glorious God for worthless idols. Be appalled at this, you heavens, and shudder with great horror," declares the Lord. "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water. Is Israel a servant, a slave by birth? Why then has he become plunder?"

Jeremiah 2: 4-13



One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched.

When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honour at the table, he told them this parable: "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honour, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this person your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honoured in the presence of all the other guests. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."



Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbours; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Luke 14 1, 7-14

Meditation

The parable of the wedding guest is another famous story written by Luke. It reminds us to be humble in order to be exalted.

When you go to a big party do you sit at the front, get involved right from the start or are you very quiet and reserved and sit at the back and try to keep a low profile?

Jesus tells us to be patient, wait at the back and your enjoyment will be more when the party gets underway and you make a full contribution.

He once again tells us to invite the poor, the crippled and the lame because they cannot repay you and they will get far more enjoyment than your normal guests.

When did you last help the poor, the lame or the homeless or the oppressed?

What can we do to follow Jesus with our help with the less fortunate?

Prayers

God of abiding mercy
We will rejoice in you.

Generous God, you draw us deeper into your love and our hearts resound in your praise. Fill your Church with your bountiful goodness, that we may reach out to touch those beyond our usual gaze ... Make us hospitable, welcoming all as if your Son.

God of abiding mercy
We will rejoice in you.

Generous God, you exalt those regarded as lowly, and humble those used to worldly honour. Save all in high office from becoming contemptuous of the people they serve ... Train us in the humility that respects and furthers the common good.

God of abiding mercy
We will rejoice in you.

Generous God, you share your bread with sinners and pilgrims equally, that all may grow in the likeness of your Son. We pray for all with whom we share in this banquet of your grace ... Increase the bonds that unite us in your fellowship.

God of abiding mercy
We will rejoice in you.

Generous God, you promise that you will never forsake your people. Be with all those who feel shrouded in darkness or fear: or anxious about what the future will hold, whose illness brings them close to despair... May your light shine in the dark places.

God of abiding mercy
We will rejoice in you.

Generous God, we praise and bless you for your eternal mercy. In this faith we remember with love all who have died ... May we all come to hear you invite us into your nearer presence.

God of abiding mercy
We will rejoice in you.

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



DISMISSAL

- Hymn**
1. All over the world the Spirit is moving
all over the world, as the prophets said it would be.
All over the world there's a mighty revelation
of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.
 2. All over this land the Spirit is moving
all over this land, as the prophets said it would be.
All over this land there's a mighty revelation
of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.
 3. All over the Church the Spirit is moving
all over the Church, as the prophets said it would be.
All over the Church there's a mighty revelation
of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.
 4. All over us all the Spirit is moving
all over us all, as the prophets said it would be.
All over us all there's a mighty revelation
of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.
 5. Deep down in my heart the Spirit is moving
Deep down in my heart, as the prophets said it would be.
Deep down in my heart there's a mighty revelation
of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.



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 for ever. Amen

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death. Amen

The Grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen

Twelfth Sunday After Trinity

Introduction

God of our pilgrimage, bring us with joy to the eternal city founded on the rock, and give to our earthly cities the peace that comes from above, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn

1. Lead us, heav'nly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing ev'ry blessing
if our God our Father be.

2. Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us,
all our weakness thou dost know,
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.

3. Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy;
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

Reading

This is the Word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.

Then the Word of the Lord came to me. He said, "Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?" declares the Lord. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. If at any time I announce that a nation or Kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it."

"Now therefore say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, 'This is what the Lord says: Look! I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions.'

Jeremiah 18: 1-11



Large crowds were travelling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple”.

“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’”

“Or suppose a King is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples”.

Luke 14: 25-33

Meditation

Jesus said to be my disciple you must carry your cross, give up everything including your family and friends and follow me. It is not going to be an easy task.

How many times have you started something and not finished it? Was it because it was too difficult? Did you get bored? Did you run out of resources?

These reasons are always quite clear but they prevent us from doing what Jesus wants us to do, this is to be steadfast and keep going until we reach our goal.

Given Jesus’ words would you be a disciple?



Prayers

God of abiding mercy
We will rejoice in you.

Lord Jesus, you gave everything of yourself for our sake and yet our response can be so meagre. Confront us with the challenge of your good news, that we may give freely of all that we are and have in your service ... Refresh our hearts in you and fit us for your Kingdom.

God of abiding mercy
We will rejoice in you.

Lord Jesus, you break the false bonds we use to oppress and subjugate those you make free. We pray for all who are set over others: managers and leaders ... Teach us that authority brings responsibility and that all power is ultimately yours.

God of abiding mercy
We will rejoice in you.

Lord Jesus, we give thanks for friends who support and minister to us in our hour of need; for the service freely given and received ... Give us thankful hearts for the love expressed.

God of abiding mercy
We will rejoice in you.

Lord Jesus, you told your disciples to take up their cross in order to follow you. Hear our prayer for all who find this hard to bear ... Teach us to trust in your providential care.

God of abiding mercy
We will rejoice in you.

Lord Jesus, your love moulds and shapes us for eternity with you. We hold before you all whose earthly travail is over ... Bring us with them to delight in your nearer presence.

God of abiding mercy
We will rejoice in you.

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



DISMISSAL

Hymn

1. The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want,
he makes me down to lie
in pastures green. He leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

2. My soul he doth restore again;
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake.

3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear none ill:
for thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

4. My table thou hast furnished
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.

5. Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me:
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling-place shall be.



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 for ever. Amen

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death. Amen

The Grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen

Thirteenth Sunday After Trinity

Introduction

Lord as you send rain and flowers even in the wilderness, renew your Holy Spirit, help us to sow good seed in times of adversity and to live to rejoice in your good harvest of all creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Hymn

1. Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms
has blessed us on our way with
countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2. O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

3. All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
the one Eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Reading

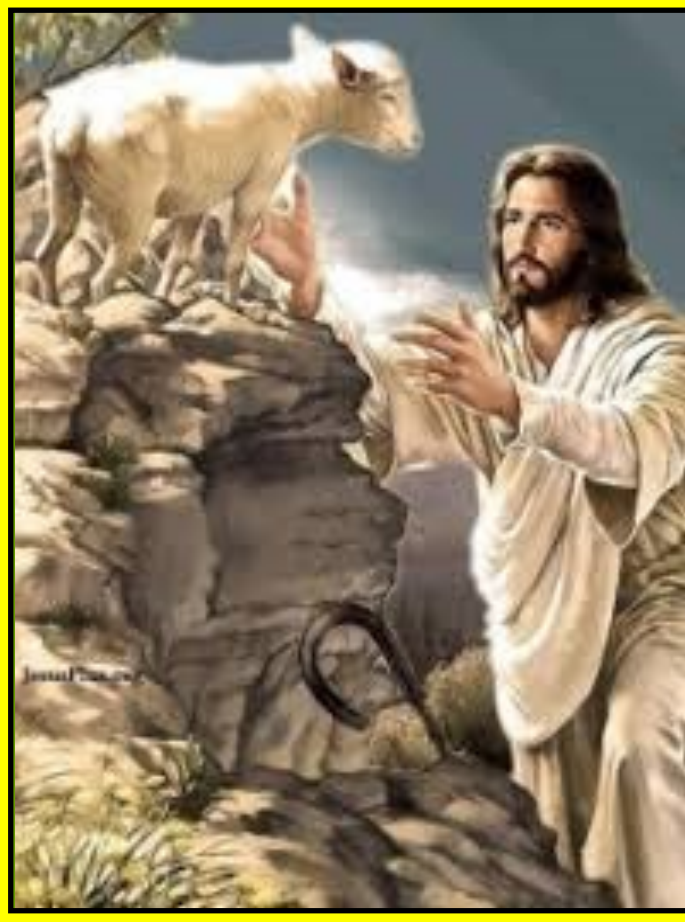
At that time this people and Jerusalem will be told, "A scorching wind from the barren heights in the desert blows toward my people, but not to winnow or cleanse; a wind too strong for that comes from me. Now I pronounce my judgments against them."

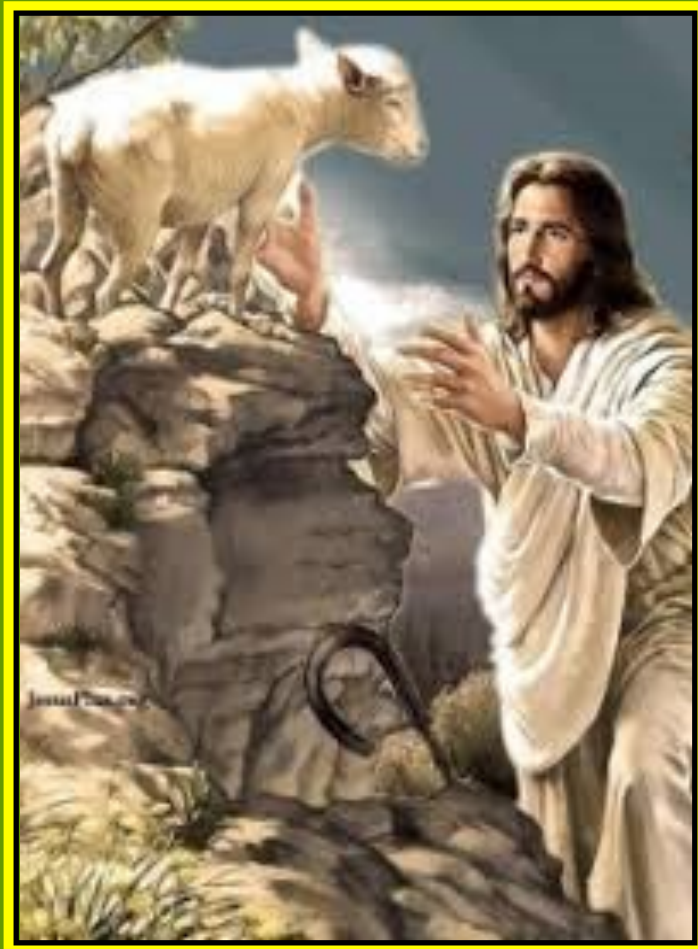
"My people are fools; they do not know me. They are senseless children; they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil; they know not how to do good."

I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty; and at the heavens, and their light was gone. I looked at the mountains, and they were quaking; all the hills were swaying. I looked, and there were no people; every bird in the sky had flown away. I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert; all its towns lay in ruins before the Lord, before his fierce anger.

This is what the Lord says: "The whole land will be ruined, though I will not destroy it completely. Therefore the earth will mourn and the heavens above grow dark, because I have spoken and will not relent, I have decided and will not turn back."

Jeremiah 4: 11-12, 22-28





Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

Then Jesus told them this parable: “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbours together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Luke 15: 1-10

Meditation

Jesus tells the story of the lost sheep and the widow’s lost coin, he likens them both to sinners.

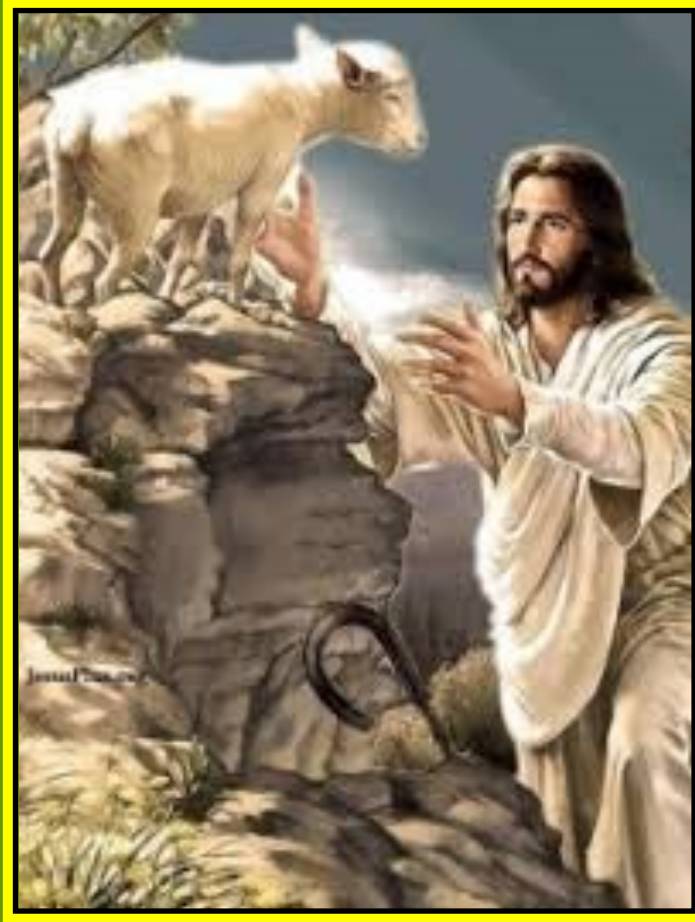
His statement is that he will be rejoicing over one sinner who repents.

Have you lost something and searched diligently to find it? When you found it what did you do?

It could be something valuable like jewellery or even coins. What did you do when you found it? Did you give thanks either privately or share your joy with your friends?

If you didn’t find it, how long did you search before you gave up?

Jesus tells us not to give up because everyone needs to be found, so that they can repent and be saved.



Prayers

God of abiding mercy
We will rejoice in you.

Remember, O Lord, not our many offences and weaknesses but your loving mercy, which has endured from of old and through all ages ... Increase the charity in us to search with you for all who stray, that they may find their way back to rejoice in the peace you bring.

God of abiding mercy
We will rejoice in you.

Remember, O Lord, not our stiff necks and over-inflated pride, but our desire to serve you and be instruments of your dawning Kingdom. Inspire with your compassion and longing all politicians and civic leaders ... Bring us all to rejoice in your freedom.

God of abiding mercy
We will rejoice in you.

Remember, O Lord, not our divisions and petty squabbles, but your desire to draw everyone into a community in which all can flourish ... May we rejoice together in the restoration you bring.

God of abiding mercy
We will rejoice in you.

Remember, O Lord, not our frustrated anger but your overwhelming compassion and pity ... In all, may we learn to trust and rejoice in your abiding love.

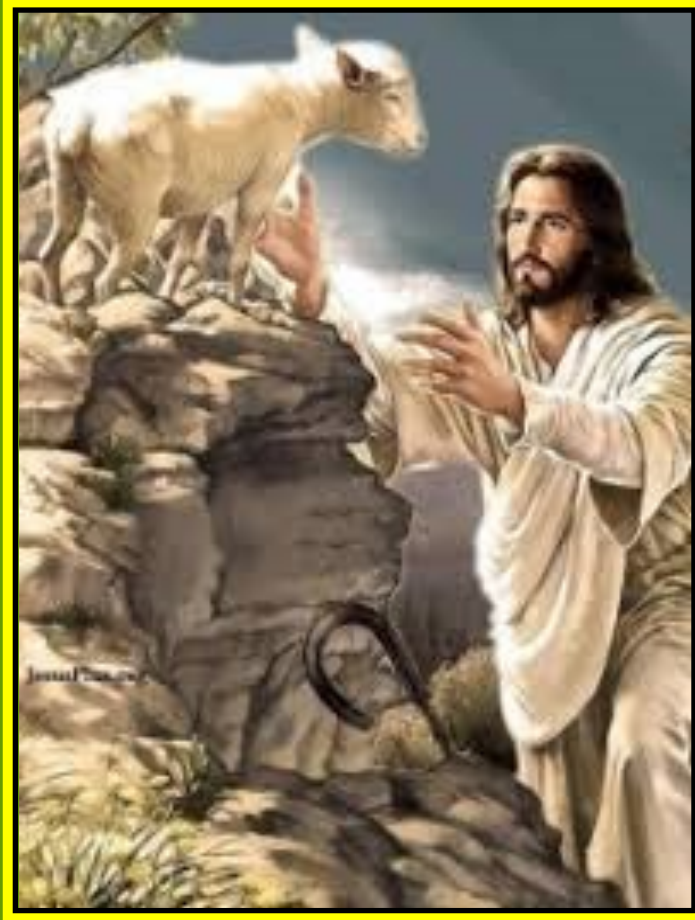
God of abiding mercy
We will rejoice in you.

Remember, O Lord, not our failures and everything we have left undone, but your unending mercy and love ... Bring us to rejoice in your eternal promise.

God of abiding mercy
We will rejoice in you.

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

DISMISSAL



Hymn 1. For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies.
*Lord of all to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

2. For the beauty of each hour,
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower:
sun and moon and stars of light:
Refrain.

3. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above
pleasures pure and undefiled:
Refrain.

4. For each perfect gift of thine,
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
Refrain.

5. For thy Church which evermore
Lifteth holy hands above
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love.
Refrain.

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 for ever. Amen

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death. Amen

The Grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen

Fourteenth Sunday After Trinity

Introduction

Father we commend to your faithful love those who are crying from the depths; help them to watch and pray through their time of darkness in sure hope of the dawn of your forgiveness and redemption; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Hymn

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
naught be all else to me save that thou art;
thou my best thought in the day and the night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2. Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

3. Be thou my breast plate, my sword for the fight,
be thou my armour, and be thou my might,
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower,
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.

4. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
thou mine inheritance through all my days;
thou, and thou only, the first in my heart,
high King of heaven, my treasure thou art!

5. High King of heaven, when battle is done,
grant heaven's joys to me, O bright heaven's sun;
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Reading

You who are my Comforter in sorrow, my heart is faint within me. Listen to the cry of my people from a land far away: "Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King no longer there?" "Why have they aroused my anger with their images, with their worthless foreign idols?"

"The harvest is past, the summer has ended, and we are not saved."

"Since my people are crushed, I am crushed; I mourn, and horror grips me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people?"

"Oh, that my head were a spring of water and my eyes a fountain of tears! I would weep day and night for the slain of my people".

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1





Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.'

"The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg. I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.'

"So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' 'Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,' he replied. " The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.' Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?' 'A thousand bushels of wheat,' he replied.' He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.'

"The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. I tell you, "use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings."

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?"

"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Luke 16: 1-13

Meditation

Have you ever been dishonest? Think of the situation you were in at the time. How do you reconcile your misdeeds? Is it through repentance or do you shrug it off and promise not to do it again?

Are you a loyal person to your friends and colleagues? Are you more loyal to God?

Reflect on Jesus' words. "You cannot serve two masters".

Prayers

God of abiding mercy
We will rejoice in you.

Blessed Lord, from the rising of the sun to its setting, we will praise you and you alone. Keep your Church in this single-minded devotion ... Sustain us with your presence.

God of abiding mercy
We will rejoice in you.

Blessed Lord, hear our prayers for those in high position, that the dignity of all may be upheld and honoured ... Guide all nations in the ways of peace with justice.

God of abiding mercy
We will rejoice in you.

Blessed Lord, turn our hearts from love of wealth and obsession with its false security. Set us free to trust in your bounty and to be satisfied with sufficient ... Fix our hearts where true and lasting treasures may be found.

God of abiding mercy
We will rejoice in you.

Blessed Lord, in your love and mercy, save us from the anger and bitterness that destroys the soul. Quieten the raging hearts of those in distress and bring peace to troubled minds ... Lift us from dust and ashes to hope in you.

God of abiding mercy
We will rejoice in you.

Blessed Lord, you desire the salvation of all people. We commend to you all who have died ... Bring us to rejoice in your courts with thanksgiving.

God of abiding mercy
We will rejoice in you.

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



DISMISSAL

Hymn

1. How lovely on the mountains
are the feet of him
who brings good news, good news,
announcing peace,
proclaiming news of happiness:
*Our God reigns. Our God reigns. Our God reigns.
Our God reigns. Our God reigns. Our God reigns.*

2. You watchmen, lift your voices
joyfully as one,
shout for your King, your king
See eye to eye,
the Lord restoring Zion
Refrain

3. Waste places of Jerusalem
break forth with joy!
We are redeemed, redeemed.
The Lord has saved and comforted his people
Refrain

4. Ends of the earth, see
the salvation of our God!
Jesus is Lord, is Lord!
Before the nations,
he has bared his holy arm.

Prayer

Refrain

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 for ever. Amen

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