

The Benefice of Silsoe, Pulloxhill and Flitton
Growing as beacons of Christ's Light in our communities



Morning Prayers - Sunday 13 September 2020
Recorded at St James the Great, Silsoe
Led by Lay Leader of Worship Maggie Jeeves

Greeting

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

All: and also with you

This is the day the Lord has made.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We have come together in the name of Christ
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and receive God's holy word,
to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek forgiveness for our sins,
that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God;
Let us, therefore, pray together and remember God's
Presence with us now.

**All: 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.**

The prayers of penitence

God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ
to save us from our sins,
to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life:

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: Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done what is wrong in your sight;
we are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love,
cleans 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**

May the father of all mercies
cleans us from our sins
and restore us in his image,
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

All: Amen

Blessed is the Lord,

All: For he has heard our prayer.

Therefore, shall our hearts dance for joy

All: and in our songs we will praise our God.

Amen

Collect for the 14th Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God, whose only Son hath opened for us a new and living way into thy presence: grant that, with pure hearts and constant wills, we may worship thee in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

The Word of God

Psalm 103: 1 – 13

- ¹ Let all that I am praise the LORD;
with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name.
- ² Let all that I am praise the LORD;
may I never forget the good things he does for me.
- ³ He forgives all my sins
and heals all my diseases.
- ⁴ He redeems me from death
and crowns me with love and tender mercies.
- ⁵ He fills my life with good things.
My youth is renewed like the eagle's!
- ⁶ The LORD gives righteousness
and justice to all who are treated unfairly.
- ⁷ He revealed his character to Moses
and his deeds to the people of Israel.

- ⁸ The LORD is compassionate and merciful,
slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.
- ⁹ He will not constantly accuse us,
nor remain angry forever.
- ¹⁰ He does not punish us for all our sins;
he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve.
- ¹¹ For his unfailing love toward those who fear him
is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth.
- ¹² He has removed our sins as far from us
as the east is from the west.
- ¹³ The LORD is like a father to his children,
tender and compassionate to those who fear him.

The Old Testament Reading - *Genesis 50:15-21*

But now that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers became fearful. "Now Joseph will show his anger and pay us back for all the wrong we did to him," they said.

So they sent this message to Joseph: "Before your father died, he instructed us to say to you: 'Please forgive your brothers for the great wrong they did to you—for their sin in treating you so cruelly.' So we, the servants of the God of your father, beg you to forgive our sin." When Joseph received the message, he broke down and wept. Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. "Look, we are your slaves!" they said.

But Joseph replied, "Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you? You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. No, don't be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children." So he reassured them by speaking kindly to them.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God. Amen

The Gospel - *Matthew 18:21-35*

Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?"

"No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!" Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. He couldn't pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt. But the man fell down before his master and begged him, 'Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.' Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it,' he pleaded. But his creditor wouldn't wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.

When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt."

³⁵ "That's what my heavenly Father will do to you, if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart."

This is the word of The Lord

All: Thanks be to God. Amen

Reflection

The Creed

**All: 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;
he ascended to heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.
Amen**

Prayers of intercession

Bidding: Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer

Merciful Father

**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Gathering our prayers into one, let us pray as Jesus taught us

**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**

Closing prayers

**All: Almighty God,
we thank you for the gift of your holy word.
may it be a lantern at our feet,
a light upon our paths
and a strength to our lives.
take us and use us
to love and serve all people
in the power of the Holy Spirit
and in the name of your Son
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

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

All: Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All: in the name of Christ. Amen

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[Reflection based on Extracts from 'Saints & Pilgrims' written by the Bishop of St. Albans Alan Smith. Prayers for today 13 Sept 2020 based on 'Clouds and Glory!' (Year A) by David Adam]